

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Tree lightings, Santa and more at bases across Europe

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Wreckage of U.S. plane, bodies found in Afghanistan

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Notre Dame fires Willingham after three years

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2004

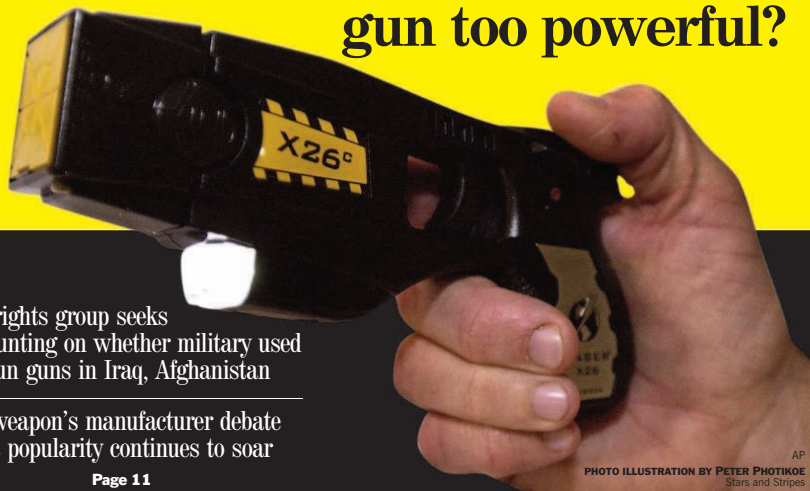
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135 U.S. dead in November; matches worst month in Iraq

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Car bomb kills 5 Iraqis; 3 U.S. troops among injured Page 6

Is this 'nonlethal' gun too powerful?



Human rights group seeks full accounting on whether military used Taser stun guns in Iraq, Afghanistan

Critics, weapon's manufacturer debate safety as popularity continues to soar

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AP
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTIKOE
Stars and Stripes

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Guys going for
good grooming

Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Milosevic war-crimes trial: A former Russian prime minister testified as a defense witness at Slobodan Milosevic's war crimes trial Tuesday, saying the former Yugoslav president tried to avoid the conflict in Kosovo.

Yevgeny Primakov was in office during the 1998-1999 war in the southern Serbian province when Milosevic sent troops to crack down on separatist ethnic Albanians.

Before the bombing, "I observed that both you personally and Belgrade were trying to rein in the forces that could be drawn into that circle of violence," Primakov told Milosevic from the stand at the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Democracy in Hong Kong: The top U.S. diplomat in Hong Kong said Tuesday the government should respect people's wishes on the issue of holding a referendum on direct elections in this partially democratic Chinese territory.

Pro-democracy figures tried to pass a legislative motion backing the referendum on Monday, but it was defeated by pro-government lawmakers who hold a majority in the legislature.

Beijing had earlier warned lawmakers against supporting the referendum, which it sees as a challenge to China's constitutional system.

Ukraine election turmoil: Supporters of Ukraine's opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko broke off talks Tuesday with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who was declared the winner of the presidential election.

Yushchenko's campaign chief, Oleksandr Zinchenko, accused authorities of trying to drag out the talks, which were launched last week thanks to the European Union's mediation.

Zinchenko spoke after pro-government lawmakers broke the opposition's attempt to vote no-confidence in Yanukovich's Cabinet.

Jailed terrorist: The terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal is again refusing food to protest conditions in a Paris prison, where he is serving a life sentence, one of his lawyers said Tuesday.

The Venezuelan, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, stopped eating last Wednesday and said he will continue the strike "as long as necessary," attorney Isabelle Coutant Peyre said by telephone.

She said he is protesting being kept in isolation, "provocative and unjustifiable" body and cell searches, and authorities' refusal to let him access his prison bank account.

Pakistan's presidency: Pakistan's military president, under fire for reneging on promises to restore full democracy, will keep his dual role as army chief and head of state under legislation enacted Tuesday by close supporters while the general was on a trip to Latin America and Washington.

There was no doubt that the legislation would be signed, but the timing appeared to indicate that President Gen. Pervez Musharraf did not want to put his name on the controversial bill, which has drawn heavy criticism from the opposition.

Instead, it was signed into law by Mohammed Mian Soomro, who as chairman of the Senate is acting president while Musharraf is away.



Cleric's terrorism trial: Militant Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, center, is escorted by security officers and his defense lawyer during a break Tuesday in his trial in Jakarta, Indonesia. Prosecutors suffered a setback Tuesday when a key witness failed to link the radical cleric to any crimes. Bashir, 66, is accused of heading the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, and of inciting his followers to take part in the 2002 Bali bombings and the JW Marriott Hotel attack in Jakarta last year. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

Afghan opium crop: Afghan President Hamid Karzai has lodged a protest with British and U.S. officials after a mystery aircraft sprayed herbicide on opium crops without authorization, his spokesman said Tuesday.

Villagers in eastern Nangarhar province complained two weeks ago that a plane had dusted their fields and villages with a chemical that killed their crops and made them sick.

The government ordered an investigation, which confirmed that a substance had been sprayed in two districts, probably from the air, spokesman Jawed Ludin said.

States

Slain hunters: A Hmong immigrant accused of fatally shooting six deer hunters in the woods of northern Wisconsin appeared in a makeshift courtroom Tuesday, a day after charges were filed against him.

Chai Yang, 36, of St. Paul, Minn., was charged with six counts of murder, each carrying a life prison term, and two counts of attempted murder. Wisconsin does not have a death penalty.

Fla. wrestling death: Lionel Tate, the Florida youth once sentenced to life in prison for the death of a playmate, can return to his mother's home while he serves probation, a judge ruled Monday.

Tate, 17, the youngest person in modern U.S. history to be sentenced to life in prison, was freed earlier this year, but then was accused of violating probation in September.

He was moved to another home, but that family requested that he be removed because the frequent visits by probation officers were too stressful, authorities said.

Girl sold into marriage: A refugee from Kosovo pleaded guilty to attempted rape in

the case of a 15-year-old girl who said her mother sold her to be his bride for \$3,000.

Bekim Lajpini, 22, of Rochester, N.Y., was initially charged with first-degree rape. His attorney, David Foster, said Lajpini pleaded guilty Monday to the reduced charge because he believed the sex was consensual.

The felony conviction will likely send him to prison for four years, followed by deportation.

New Jersey governor's race: Republican Bret Schundler, who lost the 2001 New Jersey governor's race to the recently resigned Democrat James E. McGreevey, announced Monday he will seek the job again in 2005.

Schundler told cheering supporters that he would cut taxes by keeping state spending below the rate of economic growth. He cut taxes while mayor of Jersey City from 1992 to 2001.

He is the second prominent Republican to announce he will seek the party's gubernatorial nomination in as many weeks. Businessman Douglas R. Forrester, who lost a bid for U.S. Senate in 2002, announced last week that he will run for governor.

New York Times libel suit: A federal judge has dismissed a libel suit brought against The New York Times by bioterrorism expert Steven Hatfill, who claimed the newspaper falsely insinuated he was responsible for the deadly anthrax attacks in 2001.

U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton also dismissed Hatfill's lawsuit against Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, who wrote several columns in 2002 on the FBI's handling of the anthrax investigation.

Hilton ruled that Kristof's columns did not defame Hatfill, and that they accurately reflected the state of the FBI's investigation, in which Hatfill was labeled "a person of interest" by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Stories and photos from wire services



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DD tests efficacy of smaller flu vaccine dose

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Pentagon, together with several federal health agencies, is conducting a study to see if a half-dose of flu vaccine is as effective in healthy people as a full dose.

Researchers are hoping that the results duplicate a 2001 study performed at the New York's University of Rochester, which showed that the half-dose does work in such populations.

If so, the study "could potentially it could double the vaccine supply," according to Maj. Molly Klotz, a physician and research fellow at Allergy-Immunology Department at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The study, begun in early November, was prompted by this year's vaccine shortage, according to Col. John Grabenstein, deputy director of the Military Vaccine Program in Arlington.

Members of the government's National Vaccine Advisory Committee, which includes many military health organizations, recalled that the University of Rochester's study of half-doses of flu vaccine administered to more than 1,000 healthy people had offered "promising" results, Grabenstein said.

Although the vaccine changes composition each year, the components are not drastically different, Klotz said Monday at the Pentagon.

So if half-doses of two different versions of the vaccine proved to provoke the same immune response in healthy people, "logically, you can infer" that every year's vaccine would be effective in the smaller dose, she said.

The new study includes about 1,375 volunteers, including 1,249 Pentagon employees,

with the rest coming from Walter Reed, Klotz said.

None of the volunteers fall into the high-risk categories, which include people age 65 and older, children under age 2, and people whose immune systems are vulnerable. The U.S. government recommends that all high-risk people receive full doses of flu vaccine each year.

The study began with a single flu shot. Some volunteers got full doses and some half-doses, and researchers will not know who got which dose until the study's conclusion, Klotz said.

In addition to the shot, participants also had to donate a small tube of blood.

The next phase of the study is to draw another vial of blood from volunteers.

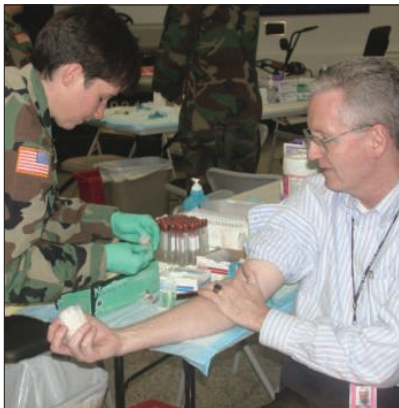
Researchers will compare the first vial of blood with the second to see whether the half-dose of vaccine prompted the body to produce the correct immune response, which peaks about three weeks after the initial flu shot, Klotz said.

Volunteers are also keeping a diary of any symptoms they experience over the course of the flu season, and researchers will be in touch via e-mail at least twice over the coming months to ask participants about any illnesses.

The researchers will track the volunteers until March 31, the official end of the flu season, Klotz said.

Walter Reed's Allergy-Immunology Department, Vaccine Healthcare Centers Network, and Army Institute of Research, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and other members are coordinating the new study, Klotz said Monday at the Pentagon.

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LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Ken Chapman, a defense analyst for the Air Force who is participating in the flu vaccine study, has blood drawn Tuesday at the Pentagon by Pfc. Denise Leard, of Passadumkeag, Maine. Leonard is a lab technician at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C.

Spanish workers protest at Rota

Union leaders believe Navy cuts in spending will mean loss of jobs

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — For the second time in less than a week, Spanish base workers blocked Naval Station Rota's main gate to morning traffic Tuesday.

Workers were protesting potential job cuts by the U.S. military. Employees claim that as many as 75 jobs could be lost as the U.S. Navy tries to find ways to be more efficient and save money at installations throughout Europe.

"We consider that unacceptable," union leader Miguel Garcia said of the potential job cuts.

Unions representing the base's 1,150 civilian Spanish workers are in the midst of negotiations with the Spanish Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Navy over a new labor agreement. Earlier in the month, union leaders said the Spanish Ministry of Defense told them about plans to cut the work force. Employees voted last Wednesday to publicly voice their discontent.

The U.S. Navy said Tuesday that it has not determined if any Spanish jobs would be cut.

"The United States Navy has not presented the Spanish Ministry of Defense with any specific plan or number for reduction in number of Spanish employees," base spokeswoman Lt. Allie Free-



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Spanish workers stand outside the "Rota Gate" at Naval Station Rota, Spain, to protest possible workforce cuts during a demonstration Tuesday morning. The workers claim that the U.S. military wants to eliminate the jobs of 75 Spanish civilians who work at the base.

man said in a statement to Stars and Stripes.

Several hundred workers arrived at the gate around 7 a.m. and stood under a cool drizzle for about two hours. Many wore stickers that read, "No a los despidos," which means "No to the dismissals."

Rota police diverted traffic away from the gate, and base officials opened up a fourth gate to ease early-morning traffic in and out of the naval station.

The base radio station instructed Americans trying to enter the

base to avoid the demonstration and pass through one of the other gates.

Unless employees see improvements during negotiations, union leaders said they would continue to hold similar protests. However, they did not give any details.

"We will continue," Garcia said. "We will fight."

Workers laid down a protest line, briefly blocking the same gate to traffic. Spanish workers have held numerous protests and demonstrations over pay issues in the last four years.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Brigadier general among 7 killed in Black Hawk crash

BY T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

BRUCEVILLE-EDDY, Texas — Army officials on Tuesday identified two high-ranking officers from Fort Hood as being among the victims of Monday's helicopter crash that killed seven soldiers.

Brig. Gen. Charles B. Allen, 49, and Col. James M. Moore, 47, were aboard the UH-60 Black Hawk that struck support cables for a TV transmission tower in foggy morning weather about 30 miles northeast of Fort Hood.

Also identified were Capt. Todd T. Christmas, 26; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Douglas V. Clapp, 48; Chief Warrant Officer 2 David H. Gardner Jr., 32; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark W. Evans Jr., 27; and Spc. Richard L. Brown, 29. All were assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood.

Allen was the division's assistant division commander for support, while Moore was commander of the Division Support Command. Gardner and Evans were the pilots of the Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, which went down about 7 a.m. Monday.

Everyone aboard the aircraft died in the crash. The helicopter was flying through thick fog that obscured all but the lowest few hundred feet of the 1,800-foot-high tower, witnesses said.

In addition, the red warning lights that normally mark the tower for aviators had been knocked out in a storm last week.

Jerry Pursley, the general manager of KXXV, said the station no-



Black Hawk helicopter bound for Texarkana, Texas, from Fort Hood crashed, killing seven soldiers



Primary function: Medium-lift helicopter

Length: 50 feet, 0.7 inches (15 meters)

Max speed: 225 mph (360 kph)

Range: 370 miles (592 km)

Crew: Four

Accommodations: Up to 11 soldiers

Sources: Jane's Information Group; ESRI

tified the Federal Aviation Administration. Maj. Randy Cephus, a spokesman for the 4th Infantry, said safety investigators were trying to determine whether the pilots consulted the FAA database before taking off.



Spc. Joseph Baker, filling out paperwork on the right, is one of 396 other 5th Signal Command troops who recently returned from an 11-month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2.

5th Signal Command GIs return from duty in Kuwait

Mannheim brimming with soldiers who supported communications operations in throughout war zone

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — It now takes longer to get on and off post, get lunch within the appropriate hour or find room to patronize local establishments in the Mannheim military community.

This means one thing: The troops are home.

About 400 5th Signal Command soldiers made it home Sunday after an 11-month deployment to Kuwait.

The troops, who supported communications operations for Iraq and Kuwait, are now going through the seven-day reintegration process and looking forward to 30 days of block leave through the holidays.

Though the desert-weary troops came home only a couple of days after Thanksgiving Day, many said it didn't even matter.

"I'm looking forward to being with my kids who are about to turn 2 and 3 in January," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Ellis, the 2nd platoon sergeant for Company A, 72nd Signal Battalion, while completing reintegration paperwork Tuesday on Sullivan Barracks.

"I'm lucky because I got to come home for R&R [rest and recuperation] just after my wife's

birthday and be home for my anniversary. And now, I get my children's birthdays and the holidays. I can make up for lost time now that I'm with them again."

Despite long lines and waiting, the community is as happy to have its troops home as the soldiers are to be back.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, Outdoor Recreation and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are offering deals to the returning troops, such as discounted tours to various cities and 50-cent bowling days.

Single soldiers said they're just as happy to be out of the desert as their married counterparts, and said they are preparing to party it up.

"I'm thrilled to be back in civilization and not having someone telling me what to do every hour of the day," said Sgt. Jared Coffin, a line of site transmission systems team chief for Company A, 72nd Signal Battalion. He said during his block leave he's planning a vacation through Holland; the Czech Republic; Budapest, Hungary; and ringing in the New Year in Spain.

Spc. Bonnie Leksrisawat, a

radio technician with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 72nd Signal Battalion, echoed Coffin's sentiment and said she's most looking forward to having indoor plumbing. She also said the deployment made her a better soldier, since she learned much more about her job.

"I also learned that the desert is really hot," she said.

Because leadership knows that troops sometimes tend to overcompensate for missed leisure time, the reintegration process includes safety classes.

"The key is to get the troops ready for traveling in the winter," explained Master Sgt. Darryl Robinson, the brigade maintenance supervisor.

Another leader, Sgt. Carlos Varando, the Company B motor pool supply noncommissioned officer in charge, added that troops need to stay safe through all the upcoming free time and not drive recklessly or drink and drive.

Though Mannheim is packed now, it won't be brimming with troops for long. Another batch of troops are gearing up for a deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 or Operation Enduring Freedom 6 by early next year, according to post officials.

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Hohenfels troops back home after advising, training Iraqi soldiers

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

For members of two observer-controller teams in Hohenfels, Germany, their mission was nothing new: to act as advisers during the training of two battalions of soldiers.

What was new for members of the Grizzlies and Timberwolves teams from the Combat Manue-

ver Training Center was that their mission was in Iraq, and the battalions were in the Iraqi army.

Two 10-member teams headed to Iraq in March and returned Nov. 9 and Nov. 19. Each worked with separate battalions at the same Iraqi army base in Kirkush most of the time.

The Timberwolves worked with the Iraqi army's 6th Battalion, in support of the training of Iraqi soldiers from March to July, then stayed with the battalion as its soldiers began missions in Diyala province, said Maj. Pete Fedak, officer in charge of the Timberwolves detachment.

"The combat operations in Diyala province offered a good chance for the soldiers to get their feet wet," Fedak said.

In early November, the Timberwolves soldiers deployed with the 6th Battalion to Fallujah, Fedak said.

Meanwhile, the Grizzlies were attached to the 7th Battalion of the Iraqi army. After helping the battalions staff train its 700 soldiers, the Grizzlies deployed to Samarra with the battalion in September, said Master Sgt. Mike Moser, noncommissioned officer in charge for the Grizzlies detachment.

"We were helping this unit train so that the battalion could

perform the mission — so that it could stand up and deploy anywhere within the country," he said.

All of the soldiers who deployed volunteered for the mission, but family members were surprised to learn that the trainers, who normally do not deploy from the training area, were heading to Iraq.

"Saying goodbye [to the Iraqis] was pretty tough, but it's great to be back in Germany. When I said goodbye to my wife, I knew I would see her again. When we said goodbye to those soldiers, we knew that we would see them again."

Master Sgt. Mike Moser

Grizzlies detachment noncommissioned officer in charge

waiting for us. I couldn't wait for the ceremony to end; I was standing about 20 feet from my family and wanted to grab them."

While he said he was happy to be home, Fedak said he misses the Iraqi troops he helped train. "Saying goodbye to the Iraqis was pretty tough, but it's great to be back in Germany," Fedak said. "When I said goodbye to my wife, I knew I would see her again. When we said goodbye to those soldiers, we knew that we would probably never see them again."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emerrg@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Sailor's daughter dies from injuries in car crash

The five-year-old daughter of a Naval Air Station Sigonella sailor died Sunday from injuries received during a Nov. 6 car crash near the base. The girl, whose name has not been released, had been in an Italian hospital since the accident with internal injuries.

Spokesman Lt. Steve Curry said the base will hold a memorial service for the girl at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the NAS 1 chapel.

Former director of DODEA's Atlantic Region dies

Georgia Williams-Scaife, one-time director of Department of Defense Education Activity's Atlantic Region, died Sunday in Los Angeles after a prolonged battle with cancer. She was 67.

Her most recent position was chief of community relations and partnerships for DODEA, a post she left in 2002 in order to become the executive director of the Kids Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping troubled youth. Condolences can be sent to her family at: 14829 Greenleaf St., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

From staff reports

Holiday happenings across Europe bases

Tree lightings, visits from Santa and more are among the activities planned on U.S. military bases throughout Europe during this holiday season. Here are just some of the many events planned:

BELGIUM

Chièvres:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Friday, next to Grandma's Attic, near the post exchange on Chièvres Air Base

GERMANY

Ansbach:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Thursday, at the parking lot near the post exchange on Bismarck Casern

Aschaffenburg:

■ Tree lighting, 6 p.m., Thursday, at Travis Park, building 626

Babenhäuser:

■ Tree lighting, 6 p.m., Wednesday, Food Court

■ Pictures with Santa, children's Christmas pageant, 6 p.m., Dec. 19, Babenhäuser ACS Center

Bamberg:

■ Tree lighting, visit from Santa, 5 p.m., Thursday, across from the JFK Gym

Baumholder:

■ German-American reception, 3 p.m., Wednesday, Rheinlander Convention Center at H.D. Smith Barracks, with tree lighting and visit from Santa starting at 4:30 p.m.

Bitburg:

■ Tree lighting, 6 p.m., Dec. 7, Bitburg Chapel Annex

Butzbach:

■ Christmas concert, 7 p.m., Dec. 10, Bürgerhaus, 1st Armored Division Band

Büdingen:

■ Tree lighting, 6 p.m., Friday, Armstrong Barracks, with town fire brigade band.

Darmstadt:

■ Tree lighting, carol singing, pictures with Santa, 6 p.m., Thursday, headquarters circle, Cambrail-Fritsch Casern

Dexheim:

■ Tree lighting, visit from Santa, 6 p.m., Dec. 9, at the chapel

Friedburg:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Friday, parade field at Ray Barracks

Giebelstadt:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Friday, by the flagpole

Gießen:

■ Tree lighting, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Army depot, in front of building 1

Grafenwöhr:

■ Tree lighting, 5:15 p.m., Dec. 7, Corner of Gettysburg Avenue and Wilbur Road

Hanau:

■ Tree lighting, 4:30 p.m., Dec. 10, flagpole at Pioneer Casern

■ Tree lighting, 4 p.m., Dec. 13, community mallroom at Fliegerhorst Casern

Heidelberg:

■ Tree lighting, 4 p.m., Dec. 10, at the movie theater on Patrick Henry Village

Heidelberg:

■ Christmas parade, noon, Dec. 11

■ U.S. Army Europe band and chorus concert, 6 p.m., Dec. 12, Eppelheim, Rhein Neckar Hall

Hohels:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Dec. 9, at building 1 near the post chapel

Kaiserslautern:

■ Tree lighting, 4 p.m., Dec. 9, Kids' Zone, Pulaski Barracks

With visits from Mr. and Mrs. Claus

Kitzingen:

■ Tree lighting, 4 p.m., Sunday, Harvey Barracks, in front of building 114

Mannheim:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Saturday, Benjamin Franklin Village



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Members of the Rhein-Main Air Base Keystone/Torch Club celebrate the beginning of the holiday season in December 2003 as they march in the base's Christmas parade. Tree lighting ceremonies, Christmas parades and much more are going on in military communities across Europe.

chapel, followed by community illumination (candles alongside road) and caroling at Benjamin Franklin Village

■ Tree lighting, 11 a.m., Dec. 11, through Benjamin Franklin Village

Ramstein:

■ Tree lighting, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Northside Chapel

■ Operation Season's Greetings, 7 p.m., Dec. 10, Ramstein Air Base, with Patriots Cheerleaders, Blues Traveler and other bands

■ Visit with Santa, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dec. 24, Ramstein Community Center

Rhein-Main:

■ Holiday parade, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Chapel annex, followed by hot chocolate and visit from Santa

■ Spangdahlem:

■ Holiday parade, 4:15 p.m., Monday, in parking lot in front of new club and proceeding down Smith Avenue and Arnold Boulevard to Eiffel club parking lot

■ Tree lighting, 4:45 p.m., Monday, in front of Skills Development Center

Schweinfurt:

■ Breakfast with Santa, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Dec. 4, Schweinfurt American Elementary School

■ Tree and menorah lighting, 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Andrus Garden on Ledward Barracks

Stuttgart:

■ Tree lightings, carols, and visit from Santa, 5 p.m., Monday, Kelley Barracks, flagpole area

Also: 5 p.m., Dec. 7, Patch Barracks, chapel area;

5 p.m., Dec. 9, Robinson Barracks; and

5 p.m., Dec. 10, Panzer Casern, chapel area

Vißbeck:

■ Tree lighting, 5:15 p.m., Dec. 9, next to health clinic

Vogelweh:

■ Breakfast with Santa, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dec. 11

Wiesbaden:

■ Tree lighting, 6 p.m., Friday, Army airfield, with visit from Santa

Würzburg:

■ Tree lighting, 4:15 p.m., Thursday, Victory Park, Leighton Barracks

ITALY

Aviano Air Base:

■ Tree lighting, 5:15 p.m., Friday, base exchange parking lot, with live music and a visit from Santa and refreshments

Gaeta:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Dec. 17

in the Community Center with caroling, holiday party, and a visit from Santa following

La Maddalena:

■ Tree lighting, 6 p.m., Dec. 8, Mordini Complex with a visit from Santa and refreshments

Signonella:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Friday, in front of the commissary on NAS 1 with a visit from Santa and refreshments

SPAIN

Rota:

■ Christmas parade, 6 p.m., Friday, beginning at the Home Center on Enriquez Street and continuing to the commissary

■ Tree lighting, 7:15 p.m., Friday, building 1, 3rd Street

THE NETHERLANDS

Brunssum:

■ Tree lighting, 4:30 p.m., Dec. 9

■ Christmas concert, Dec. 15, Sports Hall with the U.S. Army 76th band from Mannheim, Germany, performing in tribute to Glenn Miller

■ Schinnen:

■ Tree lighting, 5:30 p.m., Dec. 9, sports center, Emma Mine Complex with rides, games and a visit from Santa

TURKEY

Izmir:

■ Tree lighting, 4:30 p.m., Dec. 10, base chapel

UNITED KINGDOM

Lakenheath:

■ Tree lighting, 5 p.m., Thursday, Liberty Circle with Christmas carols and a visit from Santa arriving on a firetruck for photos with children

■ Children's Christmas party, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., Dec. 22, Youth Center

Mildenhall:

■ Santa Sat, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bob Hope Community Center, with a visit from Santa

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Beiji attack kills 5, injures 3 U.S. troops

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

BELIJI, Iraq — A suicide bomber detonated a car bomb next to a U.S. military cargo convoy in downtown Beiji on Tuesday morning, killing five Iraqis and injuring 20 people, including three American troops.

The car exploded on Highway 1, Beiji's main thoroughfare, at 9:10 a.m., said Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, commander of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7, the Army unit that patrols the area around the city.

"We heard a big explosion," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Pingo, a tank driver attached to the task force's Company A, who was blocking traffic on the highway about two kilometers from the site. "We could tell by the size of it, it was rather substantial. We saw the smoke cloud."

An Iraqi traffic policeman, Dafer Salim Nejiriss, had stopped traffic on a side street while the convoy passed.

As the lead vehicle — a military truck called a Lightweight Mobile Tactical Vehicle, or LMTV — crossed the intersection, a Toyota at the head of the line of waiting vehicles on the side street pulled around the policeman next to the truck and lay down on the front seat.

"When the American convoy passed, he blew it up," Nejiriss said later through a translator from his hospital bed.

The LMTV rolled to a halt about 100 feet down the road, on fire near the driver's side door. The driver and passenger, both Air Force airmen attached to the 167th Corps Support Group in Tikrit, somehow escaped with bruises and minor shrapnel wounds.

"By the grace of God, those two [airmen] are still alive," McClelland said.

A soldier from Company C, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, attached to Task Force 1-7, who was in a nearby tank, also suffered minor injuries. Medics took all three to the 67th Combat Support Hospital in Tikrit, but McClelland said all three were expected to return to duty later in the day.

"We've been doing this for three weeks, and the enemy figured out a vulnerable place."

Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland
1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 commander



Left: Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sanders of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 inspects the burning wreckage of a truck attacked by a suicide car bomber in Beiji, Iraq, on Wednesday morning. The attack killed five Iraqis and injured 21 people, including three U.S. troops.

Below: A deep crater in the pavement on Highway 1 shows where the suicide car bomb detonated, destroying the U.S. military truck in the background.

PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

McClelland and Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sanders, the task force's senior non-commissioned officer, piled into Humvees and raced to the site after checking on the wounded troops. They inspected the area, then met briefly with Beiji's mayor before visiting the city's single-story hospital.

Anxious Iraqis crowded the lobby and hallway, waiting for word on the fate of loved ones. Many of the injured were workers at the city's large oil refinery who had been riding to work on a bus that was in line behind the suicide bomber.

McClelland had used tanks to block off daytime traffic on Highway 1 in the city since Nov. 17, when a similar car bomb attack killed 10 Iraqis and injured 23 people, including three U.S. soldiers.

Traffic hadn't been halted on side streets, however.

"We've been doing this for three weeks, and the enemy figured out a vulnerable place," McClelland said. "Obviously, a suicide bomber has one goal in life: to inflict as much pain as he can."

Beiji, a city of 125,000 residents 155 miles north of Baghdad that is home to two major power plants and an oil refinery, had been relatively peaceful until the past month. Insurgent attacks on Army patrols started large battles Nov. 9 and Nov. 14 that caused heavy damage to the city's business district.

And on Nov. 13, rebels blew up a key bridge on a highway bypass near Forward Operating Base Summerall, forcing the Army to route convoys through the heart of the city. They also planted at least 60 roadside bombs during the month, more than twice as many as in any previous month in the past year.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.strips.com



Bomber rams U.S. convoy on Baghdad's airport road

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber exploded a car packed with explosives next to a U.S. convoy on Baghdad's dangerous airport road on Tuesday, killing five Iraqi civilians and injuring 20 people, three of them American soldiers, the military said. Another American soldier from the 1st Infantry Division was wounded when insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a tank south of Beiji.

The attacks came as the military announced that its November death toll — fueled by the offensive against insurgents in Fallujah and insurgents' counterattacks — reached at least 135.

No military casualties reported in suicide attack

That is the same number as in April, when the insurgency flared in Fallujah and elsewhere in the so-called Sunni Triangle, where U.S. forces and their Iraqi allies lost a large measure of control.

A U.S. Army soldier died from injuries suffered after a roadside bomb exploded late Monday night at his patrol north of Baghdad.

Amid the violence, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi was expected to Jordan to meet with Iraqis living outside the country to encourage them to take part in the Jan. 30 election in a bid to support away from the insurgency. However, he ruled out a full-blown conference with insurgent enemies.

In the suicide attack, police Capt. Talib al-Alawani said a bomber drove his car into a U.S.

convoy on the airport road, scene of near daily attacks against U.S. military and Western targets.

The U.S. command confirmed that the attack occurred but had no further details.

Several casualties were seen lying next to a damaged vehicle, according to an eyewitness who arrived on the scene before troops sealed off the stretch of road where the blast occurred. A military ambulance drove up minutes later to evacuate the casualties.

The highway, which multinational troops use daily to commute between the huge military base at the airport and Baghdad's center, is considered one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq. The British Embassy announced Monday that its staff would no longer be permitted to travel on the road.

On Monday, 13 Marines were wounded in a mortar south of Baghdad, the military said. No further details were released.

Meanwhile, an official with Allawi's office said the prime minister will travel Tuesday to Jordan to meet with Iraqis outside the country as part of a dialogue on the country's future.

Allawi was to appear later Tuesday before the Iraqi National Council, a government advisory body, where he was expected to answer questions about the meeting. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, would not identify the Iraqi groups who would take part in the meeting.

The meeting is seen as an effort to reach out to various Iraqi groups to encourage broad participation in the Jan. 30 election.

Iraqi officials have insisted Allawi would not meet with "terrorists," meaning insurgent leaders.

Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told the National Council on Tuesday that the government recognized the need to "widen the scope of participation" in the election to those groups "that renounce violence and terrorism."

Zebari said Allawi would meet with about 25 to 35 "personalities," mostly from the Ramadi area of Anbar province. "We still think that national reconciliation is necessary and vital but we also make a distinction," Zebari said. "If there are people who are accused and are known for what they have committed — these people should be tried according to the laws." The Pentagon, meanwhile, said Monday the U.S. military death toll in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003 stands at 1,251. That is up 21 since the Pentagon last reported a total on Nov. 24.



BEST BUYS

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Gift certificates expanding to all commissaries

By Bonnie Powell
bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — The fifth year of Scholarships for Military Children is now underway. Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry supporting commissaries, the program has awarded over \$3 million through nearly 2,000 scholarships to the sons and daughters of active duty service members, Guard and Reserve members, and military retirees.

"The Scholarships for Military Children program has become a major community event for commissaries since its inception five years ago," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer for the Defense Commissary Agency. "The program awarded 500 scholarships in 2004 and ceremonies were held in commissaries worldwide in honor of these outstanding students. The industry members who support this program should be proud — and we hope the fifth anniversary year will be the best yet!"

Applications for the 2005 program are available at commissaries or online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. A link to the program will be on <http://www.commissaries.com>, the DeCA Web site. Eligibility and other information are also available at the program Web site. Applications, which must include an essay on how the heightened awareness of terrorism has impacted the student's life, are due at commissaries

Feb. 16, 2005. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2005, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

The scholarship program can also accept public donations at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.



Commissary shopping meets holiday needs — traditional and nutritional

By Rick Brink
richard.brink@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — The holidays are upon us and the commissary is the place to meet the nutritional as well as traditional needs of its shoppers around the world.

For those who yearn for something other than the traditional feast, the wide variety of products and services offered in commissaries make them ideal places to shop for food — whether it's in quantities large enough for a party or ready-to-eat food just for one.

"This is the time of year when our sales peak because people traditionally get together for the holidays and they require food appropriate for the occasions. Commissary product variety and selection suits any occasion, and commissary shoppers buy more for their money because they save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices," said Scott Simpson, DeCA's chief operating officer.

With commissary services, customers don't even have to cook to throw a decent party. Fresh fruit and vegetable party trays, custom-decorated cakes, finger food trays, all kinds of snack items and drinks are available at most stores. The agency's Web site, <http://www.commissaries.com>, makes it easy to find the appropriate department's phone number to place orders.

The wide variety of products sold in commissaries also suits the special dietary needs of many customers. There are low-calorie, low-carb, low-cholesterol — just about any kind of whatever products you can think of — available in stores. Dietary supplements such as vitamins and other nutrients are also available.

Speaking of diet, what about the traditional turkey dinner? According to Kay Blakley, DeCA Europe's consumer advocate, the traditional side dishes like dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, candied sweet potatoes and green bean casserole topped with French fried onions weigh in at between 200 to 300 calories per serving. That's about as many calories as dessert — a slice of pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream.

While that may bring a frown to folks' faces, the good news is that turkey is a real bargain in both calories and cost. A 3-ounce serving of boneless, skinless turkey breast is about 120 calories while a serving of dark turkey meat is about 160 calories, Blakley says.

Her advice for those who want the feast without adding pounds is this: "Remember that it takes an extra 3,500 calories above what you expend to put one pound of weight on your frame. So, get out your calculator and figure out how you'll have to trim consumption in the days ahead to make up for this one glorious meal."

135 U.S. dead in November; matches worst month in Iraq

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fueled by fierce fighting in Fallujah and insurgent's counterattacks elsewhere in Iraq, the U.S. military death toll for November equalled the highest for any month of the war, according to casualty reports available Tuesday.

At least 135 U.S. troops died in November. That is the same number as last April, when the insurgency flared in Fallujah and elsewhere in the so-called Sunni Triangle where U.S. forces and their Iraqi allies lost a large measure of control.

On Nov. 8, U.S. forces launched an offensive to retake Fallujah, and they have engaged in tough fighting in other cities since then.

More than 50 U.S. troops have been killed in Fallujah since then, although the Pentagon has not provided a casualty count for Fallujah for more than a week.

From the viewpoint of the United States and Iraqis who are striving to restore stability, the casualty trend since the interim Iraqi government was put in power June 28 has been troubling. Each month's death toll has been higher than the last, with the single exception of October, when it was 63.

The monthly totals grew from 42 in June to 54 in July to 65 in August and to 80 in September.

The Pentagon's official death toll for Iraq, dating to the start of the war, stood at 1,254 on Tuesday. That total did not include a Marine killed Monday in Anbar

province and a 1st Infantry Division soldier who died of wounds sustained in a roadside bomb attack late Monday night near the town of Alazu.

On Nov. 1 the official death toll stood at 1,121.

Combat injuries increased in November due to the fierce fighting in Fallujah. Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., reported Monday that it received 32 additional battle casualties from Iraq over the past two weeks. One was in critical condition. All 32 had been treated earlier at the Army's largest hospital in Europe, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Some of the most severe injuries — and many of the deaths — among U.S. troops in Iraq are inflicted by the insurgents' home-

made bombs, which the military calls improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

U.S. forces have put extraordinary effort into countering the IED threat, yet it persists. U.S. troops in Fallujah reported finding nearly as many homemade explosives over the past three weeks as had been uncovered throughout Iraq in the previous four months combined.

In recent action in Fallujah, troops found at least 650 homemade bombs, Bryan Whitman, a spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, said Monday. That compares with 722 found throughout the country between July 1 and Oct. 31.

The IEDs are rigged to detonate by remote control and often are hidden along roadways used by U.S. forces, to deadly effect.

Since U.S. forces invaded Fallujah on Nov. 8 to regain control, they have found about a dozen IED "factories," a number of vehicles being modified to serve as car bombs, and at least 10 surface-to-air missiles capable of downing aircraft, Whitman said.

More than half of the approximately 100 mosques in Fallujah were used as fighting positions or weapon storage sites, Whitman said, citing a U.S. military report that has not been released publicly.

U.S. officials knew insurgents had used Fallujah as a haven from which to plan and organize resources for attacks in Baghdad and other cities in the Sunni Triangle north and west of the capital, but the amount of weapons found exceeded expectations.

Abu Ghraib complaint

BERLIN — A group of American civil rights lawyers filed a criminal complaint in Germany on Tuesday, asking for an investigation of top U.S. officials including Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and former CIA director George Tenet, saying they are responsible for acts of torture committed at Abu Ghraib.

Attorneys from the New

York-based Center for Constitutional Rights said U.S. investigations of the Abu Ghraib abuses have not gone far enough and that they hope a German investigation will keep the situation at the top of the U.S. government's agenda.

The attorneys said they chose Germany because it has legislation that allows for prosecution of war crimes and human rights violations across national boundaries.

From The Associated Press

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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,254 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 981 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Mon-

day at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 74 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,116 U.S. military mem-

bers have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 872 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two U.S. soldiers were killed Monday when their patrol struck a bomb in Baghdad, Iraq.

■ A U.S. soldier died Monday in a vehicle accident near Kut, Iraq.

■ Two Marines were killed Sunday when a bomb exploded south of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Michael B. Shackelford, 25, Grand Junction, Colo.; died Sunday in an attack in Ramadi, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Army Sgt. Carl W. Lee, 23, Oklahoma City, Okla.; died Sunday in an attack in Ramadi, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Army Sgt. Trinidad R. Martin-ez, 22, Los Angeles; died Sunday in Baquba, Iraq, when his vehicle rolled over; assigned to the Army's 201st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

■ Army Spc. Jeremy E. Christensen, 27, Albuquerque, N.M.; died Saturday in Duilayah, Iraq, when a bomb exploded near his vehicle; assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Jordan D. Winkler, 19, Tulsa, Okla.; died Friday in a noncombat related incident at Camp Fallujah, Iraq; assigned to Combat Service Support Battalion 1, Combat Service Support Group 11, 1st Force Service Support Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Kirk J. Besselmann, 21, Napa, Calif.; killed Saturday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua E. Lucero, 19, Tucson, Ariz.; killed Saturday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Bradley M. Faircloth, 20, Mobile, Ala.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Pvt. Brian K. Grant, 31, Dallas; died Friday in Ramadi, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. David B. Howck, 25, Winston Salem, N.C.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Pfc. Harrison J. Meyer, 20, Worthington, Ohio; died Friday in Ramadi, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Jeffery S. Holmes, 20, White River Junction, Vt.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.



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IN THE STATES

Ridge resigns from homeland security post

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has informed the White House and department staff that he has resigned, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

In an e-mail circulated to senior Homeland Security officials, Ridge praised the department as "an extraordinary organization that each day contributes to keeping America safe and free." He also said he was privileged to work with the department's 180,000 employees "who go to work every day dedicated to making our country better and more secure."

Government officials, speaking on grounds of anonymity because a formal announcement was pending, confirmed his

resignation. A Washington news conference was scheduled for mid-afternoon.

In October 2001, Ridge became the nation's first White House homeland security adviser, leading a massive undertaking to rethink all aspects of security within the U.S. borders in the wake of the terror attacks of September 2001.

Congress subsequently passed legislation establishing the Homeland Security Department, merging 180,000 employees from 22 government agencies. Ridge be-

came the department's first secretary in January 2003.

He has presided over six national "orange alerts" when the government boosted security out of concern that an attack may be coming. An attack in the United States never happened on his watch.

Ridge has said, however, that he believes an assault by the al-Qaida terrorist network was averted last summer during the Fourth of July holiday period, when intelligence reports indicated terrorists might be targeting international flights to attack the United States. Passenger manifests were scrutinized and flights were canceled.

Yet Ridge, a politician by nature, fought criticism leading up to the election from

those who said he was using terror warnings to boost support for Bush. Ridge reportedly said: "We don't do politics in the Department of Homeland Security."

Ridge, 59, has privately expressed his interest in moving out of the time-consuming, stressful post. However, those who know him said his loyalty to Bush was always a factor to consider.

Ridge, who has spent most of his adult life in public service, came home from Vietnam, earned a law degree and went into private practice in Pennsylvania. He later served as an assistant district attorney and ran for Congress in 1982.

Ridge was re-elected five times. He became the Pennsylvania governor in 1995, leaving the state Capitol in October 2001 after the White House called.

Sore women say security goes too far

BY ERIN MCCLAM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rhonda Gaynier, a New York real-estate lawyer, was flying home from Tampa, Fla., and passing through airport security when she was asked to step aside for additional screening.

What happened next shocked her: Using an open hand, a security agent touched her on her shoulders, under her arms, around her waist, across her bra strap, and between her breasts, Gaynier said — all in front of other passengers.

"I was almost in tears," she said. "I've never been so humiliated in my life. It's one of the worst experiences I've ever had to endure."

The padlock between mid-October flight was the result of a new government directive that airport screeners carry out more frequent, and more thorough, searches for explosives.

But women across the nation say the padlocks go too far. Some are so angry that they have stopped flying altogether.

The new policy was implemented by the Transportation Security Administration on Sept. 22, after 90 people were killed in two plane crashes in Russia because they had been caused by Chechen women who carried explosives on board.

Sommer Gentry, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate student who commutes twice a month from her home in Baltimore, said she now takes Amtrak, rather than submit herself to the intrusive airport search.

Gentry said she has had several upsetting encounters with the screeners.

"I will go to great lengths to avoid flying now, because padlocks make me feel dirty and ashamed," she said. "It just gets worse every time. Now I'm afraid."



Rhonda Gaynier, a New York real-estate lawyer, talks Monday about her ordeal with airline security while in New York. Gaynier says she was groped by an airport screener in Tampa, Fla., and is considering a lawsuit against the Transportation Security Administration.

The new TSA rules say screeners can select passengers for padlocks based on "visual observations," even if they do not set off metal detectors. Amy Von Walter, a TSA spokeswoman, said screeners are looking for "irregularities in a person's natural shape or contour."

The rules stress that passengers can ask to be checked in private and by a screener of their same gender and that screeners must only use the backs of their hands when touching sensitive places.

Gaynier, 46, has filed a complaint with the TSA and is exploring legal action against it. She said she has heard from women around the country who object to the searches, many of whom say they are afraid or embarrassed to complain.

"Post-9/11, we have all come to accept a certain level of inconvenience and intrusion," she said. "I will tolerate that."

But you want to touch my body, you better have a damn good reason, and they don't."

Mfume to step down as NAACP president

BY WILEY HALL
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Saying he needs a break, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume announced Tuesday that he's stepping down as the head of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group.

The organization's legal counsel, Dennis Hayes, will serve as interim president while a national search is conducted.

"For the last nine years, I've had what I believe is both the honor and the privilege to help revive and to help restore this great organization, which has ... really become an American institution," Mfume said.

He said he wanted to spend more time with his family. "I just need a break. I need a vacation," he said. "I'm just not going to do anything for a while."

Mfume, 56, has been president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1996. Before that, he was a congressman for nine years.

He inherited an organization tarnished by scandal and burdened by a \$3.2 million debt and is credited with steering it into an era of stability and growth with corporate-style management techniques, including cost-saving layoffs.

"In my heart of hearts, I know the job has been done, and I step aside willingly ... to find another challenge and another chance to make a real difference," he said.

Last month, the organization's chairman, Julian Bond, announced that its tax-exempt status is under review by the government in an investigation he contends stems from a speech he gave that criticized President Bush. Bond said IRS agents were investigating his keynote address July 11 at the NAACP's annual convention in Philadelphia.

For an organization to keep its tax-exempt status, "leaders cannot make partisan comments in official organization publications or at official organizational functions," according to an IRS letter to the NAACP from the IRS office in Louisville, Ky.

In September, the group launched an advertising campaign aimed at combating what officials describe as stagnant membership growth.

The civil rights group, founded in 1909, wants to increase membership by 20 percent, Mfume said at the time.

Actor John D. Barrymore dies

LOS ANGELES — John Drew Barrymore, heir to an acting dynasty and absent father of movie star Drew Barrymore, had a colorful career.

He died Monday in Los Angeles at age 72, Drew Barrymore said in a statement issued by her publicist. No information was released about the cause of death.

He was part of an acting clan that included his father, the famed stage and film actor John Barrymore, his mother, silent screen star Dolores Costello, and his father's siblings, Lionel and Ethel Barrymore. Drew Barrymore is his daughter by his third wife, Ildiko Jazy Barrymore.

He started his career as a teenager, billed first as John Barrymore Jr., with early roles in the 1950s movies "The Sundowners," "High Lonesome" and "Quebec."

But there were problems with drugs, drunken driving and violence, domestic and otherwise.

Mayor's son enlists in Army

CHICAGO — Mayor Richard Daley's 29-year-old son has enlisted in the Army and soon will report for duty in the airborne infantry.

"It's been in the back of my mind for some time," Patrick Daley told the Chicago Sun-Times in Tuesday's editions. "I left West Point during my freshman year when

I was 18 years old and always remembered their motto, 'Duty, Honor and Country.' But I was so young and not really old enough to understand what it really meant. But I know now."

Daley finished college at the University of Illinois and got a master's degree in business from the University of Chicago in June.

NBC execs son's body found

MONTROSE, Colo. — Investigators probing what caused a jet to crash during takeoff want to know whether it was de-iced before it went down, killing NBC sports executive Dick Ebersol's youngest son and two other people, a federal official said Tuesday.

The plane carrying Ebersol and two of his sons crashed Sunday while taking off from the airport outside this small town 185 miles southwest of Denver.

Digging through the charred wreckage, investigators on Monday found what is believed to be the body of 14-year-old Edward Ebersol, youngest son of Ebersol, 57, and his wife, "Kate and Allie" star Susan Saint James.

Ebersol and the couple's oldest son, Charles, and the plane's co-pilot remain hospitalized and are expected to recover.

The pilot, 39-year-old Luis Alberto Polanco Espinoza, was killed in a crash landing and flight attendant Warren T. Richardson III, 36, of Coral Gables, Fla., were also killed.

From The Associated Press

Group probes DOD for stun gun use on detainees

Shocking force

Taser International Inc., the maker of stun weapons, has watched its stock soar amid growing concerns about whether the weapons are as nonlethal as advertised. In a report released Tuesday, Amnesty International says stun guns are being abused by police.

A Taser's electrical current overrides the central nervous system for five seconds, temporarily paralyzing targets

Dataport stores date and time of Taser firing

Insulated wires transmit 50,000 volts of electricity through up to two inches of clothing

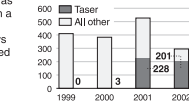
Disposable cartridge uses compressed nitrogen to launch probes up to 21 feet.

Power older models use eight AA batteries, newer models are rechargeable

SOURCES: Amnesty International; Taser International

Use of force incidents

At the Orange County, Fla., Sheriff's Office, Tasers were the most prevalent force option, constituting 68 percent of all use-of-force incidents in 2002.



ID tags ejected like confetti when fired, printed with the serial number

Probes hook wires to target's skin or clothing

Power older models use eight AA batteries, newer models are rechargeable

BY SAM HANANER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amnesty International is asking the Defense Department whether the military used Taser electric stun guns on prisoners in Iraq or Afghanistan, saying it is uneasy about reports of mistreatment and abuse.

The human rights group said it made the request under the Freedom of Information Act after interviewing dozens of prisoners formerly held by U.S. forces.

"We do have credible evidence that certainly raises the question that Tasers might have been used," Gerald Le Melle, Amnesty International USA's deputy executive director, said Monday.

Marine Capt. Dan McSweeney, a spokesman for the Joint Directorate for Non-Lethal Weapons, said that the Army, "and to a limited extent, the Marine Corps," acquired Tasers earlier in 2004.

Based on research and available data, Pentagon officials "have determined that [the use of] Tasers are appropriate," McSweeney said. "They are fielded and currently being used."

But McSweeney said he could not comment on Amnesty's request, because the directorate is responsible for the development of nonlethal weapons, but not how they are used once fielded.

"That would be a question for

the services to address, or the units" that use the Tasers, McSweeney said in a Tuesday telephone interview.

Amnesty has long expressed misgivings about the safety of Tasers and whether they are open to abuse because they can inflict severe pain without leaving marks. The group has urged law enforcement agencies to suspend the use of all electroshock weapons pending the outcome of a vigorous independent inquiry into whether the weapons pose health risks.

Amnesty's request concerning prisoners seeks information on computer chips stored inside Taser guns that record the date, time and duration of each electric shock administered.

The group also is requesting information about deaths that might have occurred after a Taser was used, as well as training materials and guidelines for how soldiers are to use the weapons.

Device's use growing

From Korean Air flight crews to U.S. police and corrections officers, orders for stun guns made by Taser International Inc. are pouring in.

The Scottsdale, Ariz., company even recently launched an ad campaign urging private citizens to arm themselves with the weapons, which temporarily paralyze people with a 50,000-volt jolt.

In a report released Tuesday, Amnesty International says stun guns are being abused by police and wants more scientific study done to determine whether the devices are safe.

Amnesty says at least 74 people have died in the United States and Canada in the past four years after being shocked with Tasers.

The group also says officers have turned stun guns on the mentally disturbed, children and the elderly.

"Not only do we not know the

impact of these weapons on human beings under various conditions, we are also concerned about the gratuitous use of these weapons," said Le Melle.

Amnesty warned that the deployment of Tasers, rather than minimizing the use of force, may dangerously extend the boundaries of what are considered "acceptable" levels of force.

Taser officials bill the guns, which shoot two barbed darts whose current can penetrate up to two inches of clothing, as among the safest ways of subduing violent people in high-risk situations.

Tasers have a range of up to 21 feet and can also shock on contact like a cattle prod.

A Department of Defense-ordered study cited by Taser company officials in defending their technology does, however, also recommend more research on how Tasers affect sensitive or intoxicated people.

The study, done by an Air Force laboratory for the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate at Quantico, Va., found that when used as intended, Tasers are safe. But it also said that, although uncommon, some severe unintended effects might occur after a shock. The military has not released the entire study, only an abstract.

Taser International contends its products reduce injuries and save lives by giving police an alternative to lethal force.

The company says it has documented 600 cases of lives saved with Taser devices and that it has not settled or lost any lawsuits involving deaths or injuries related to the guns.

"Fact is ... this thing has been around for 30 years, never ever has a Taser been listed as the primary cause of death," said Smith, the company chairman.

AP writer Anabelle Garay in Phoenix and Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess in the Pentagon contributed to this report.

"The photo is actually woven into the blanket so wash after wash the image will never fade."

Family

Baby
Toddler
Mom&Dad
Grandma&Gramps



Holidays

Mother's Day
Father's Day
Christmas
Valentine's Day

Pets

Dog
Horse
Cat
Bird



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Bush rejects Gitmo abuse claims by Red Cross

GENEVA — The international Red Cross said Tuesday that U.S. officials have failed to address concerns about some significant problems in the treatment of terror suspects detained at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

But the neutral International Committee of the Red Cross, which is the only independent monitor allowed to visit the facility, refused "to publicly confirm or deny" whether details in a New York Times article about torture allegations were from its reports to U.S. officials setting out its findings during Guantanamo visits.

A Pentagon spokesman in Washington, however, confirmed that Red Cross officials have "made their view known" that the indefinite detention of terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, amounts to torture.

But the Bush administration rejected the ICRC accusations that detainees were in any way abused at Guantanamo.

"We strongly disagree with any characterization that suggests the way detainees are being treated is inconsistent with the policies the president has outlined," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan on an Air Force One flight from Washington to Ottawa, Canada.

McClellan insisted that Guantanamo detainees "were being treated humanely," though he pointed out "the combatants that were picked up on the battlefield" were seeking to harm the United States.

The Times said the ICRC has determined the U.S. military used psychological and physical coercion "tantamount to torture."

It said international Red Cross delegates found during a June visit to Guantanamo that U.S. authorities had devised and refined a system to break the will of the prisoners, using humiliation, solitary confinement, temperature extremes and force positions.

Human rights campaigners said they were surprised by the allegations after the leaking of a ICRC report last May describing mistreatment of U.S. prisoners in Iraq.

From The Associated Press

IN THE WORLD

Official visit, Bush seeks to mend ties with Canada

Trade dispute, war in Iraq have soured friendship

By DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

OTTAWA — President Bush sought Tuesday to patch up relations with Canada after years of bickering, flying here for tough hemispheric and global talks amid boisterous demonstrations from opponents of the U.S. led-war in Iraq.

Bush's trip here was the first official visit by a U.S. president in nearly 10 years and his meeting with Prime Minister Paul Martin was akin to a political dance; Bush wanted to avoid any missteps that could amplify anti-Americanism north of the U.S. border.

But his unpopularity in some Canadian quarters was unmistakable. Some of the several hundred protesters near the Parliament building were polite. "Please leave," read one sign along Bush's highly secured motorcade route. But others near where Bush and Martin met held placards that branded Bush an "assassin." A truck parked near the motorcade route was emblazoned with the phrase "Bush is a war criminal." Another placard simply commanded, "Go Home..." and included an expatriate.

An Ipsos-Reid/CTV poll released Tuesday shows 58 percent of Canadians think Bush's re-election was a "bad thing," while 26 percent believed it was good. The poll surveyed 1,000 Canadians and had an margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

Regarding the North America missile defense system, Martin has promised an open debate in the House of Commons on whether Canada should take part in the program. Polls show a majority of Canadians are against joining the



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush walk toward Air Force One en route to Ottawa, Canada, on Tuesday at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington.

system, calling it destabilizing and a misguided effort to put weapons in space.

Some prominent Canadians, such as war historian Gwynne Dyer and former deputy prime minister John Manley, suggest signing on to missile defense will give Canada the latitude to say no to larger issues, as it did to sending troops to Iraq.

The two-day visit was focused on creating goodwill, but thorny economic issues were also sure to arise at the meeting between the leaders whose nations have the world's largest trading partnership.

The United States and Canada do more than \$1 billion in business a day; 85 percent of Canada's exports go to the United States.

Bush and Martin also are expected to talk about security on the U.S.-Canada border, the war on terrorism and efforts to expand democracy to other corners of the world.

Canada stood with France and Germany in deciding not to send troops to Iraq, but pledged \$300 million for reconstruction and is helping train Iraqi police officers in Jordan. Martin is expected to offer to send Canadian observers to help oversee January elections in Iraq.

Relations between the Bush administration and Canada got off to a rocky start when Bush, a new president, chose Mexico instead of Canada as the first country he'd visit. Trade disputes and the war in Iraq further soured the friendship.

Martin, Canada's former finance minister and a wealthy shipping magnate, however, has repeatedly expressed a desire to mend U.S.-Canada relations, which cooled under his predecessor, Jean Chretien. The dialogue became even more strained when Chretien decided against sending troops to Iraq — a decision supported by more than 80 percent of Canadians.

Bush will not make a customary speech at the House of Commons in Ottawa where the sometimes raucous Parliament has been known to heckle speakers.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan brushed off suggestions that the president feared that sort of scenario, saying Bush had elected to speak "directly to the Canadian people" Wednesday in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he will thank Halifax and other maritime provinces that received tens of thousands of Americans stranded after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.



A rescuer brings down one of the survivors after a storm hit Quezon province in eastern Philippines on Tuesday.

Nearly 340 killed as second storm slams eastern Philippines

By PAT ROQUE

The Associated Press

MARAGUNDON, Philippines — A powerful rainstorm triggered landslides and flash floods that killed nearly 340 people in the eastern Philippines, officials said Tuesday, and rescuers raced to save those stranded in three coastal towns before a typhoon strikes the hard-hit region.

At least 150 people were reported missing, and the region was largely cut off by landslides and floodwaters that washed away bridges and roads. Helicopter crews struggled to find places to land and dropped food to residents huddled on rooftops.

Authorities planned to send a coast guard boat to three stricken towns in Quezon province, east of the capital, to deliver supplies or pick up evacuees. Forecasters predicted a new typhoon circling off the Pacific coast could hit the area as early as Wednesday.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman went to Quezon province Tuesday following the overnight storm and reported that at least 306 people were killed there and 150 others were missing.

Thirty-two people died elsewhere, authorities said. Soliman said bad weather and blocked roads prevented officials from delivering relief supplies and rescuing people from rooftops in parts of the province 40 miles east of Manila.

"The current is still strong and the water is still high," she said. "The rains caused the flash floods, and the soil could not hold up the water in the mountains."

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was returning from a regional summit in Laos and planned to visit the storm-ravaged areas. She went to the region just last week after a typhoon and another storm killed at least 87 people and left 80 missing.

Iran says uranium enrichment suspension is for limited time

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran claimed victory in its nuclear dispute Tuesday, saying it has isolated the United States while preserving its right to enrich uranium.

Iran said it has not abandoned its right to enrich uranium, in spite of U.S. pressure, noting the agreement it struck this week with the U.N. nuclear agency will only suspend processing for several months.

Speaking to reporters, Iran's top nuclear official, Hasan Rowhani, hailed the resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency on Monday approving IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei to monitor Iran's commitment to freeze uranium enrichment activities.

Such enrichment can produce either low-grade fuel for nuclear reactors or the raw material for atomic weapons.

Monday's resolution followed a Nov. 7 agreement on suspending enrichment activities that France, Germany and Britain negotiated with Iran to stave off tougher action by the U.N. watchdog agency, which could have referred Iran to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

"This new situation is a turning point in Iran's nuclear case because, for the first time, the (IAEA) board of governors acknowledged Iran's right to peaceful nuclear activities," Rowhani said.

It was, he said, a "great success for Iran and Europeans" because it required Iran to suspend uranium enrichment only temporarily.

The United States suspects Iran has a secret program to produce nuclear weapons and has been lobbying for the country's nuclear file to go before the Security Council.

Iran insists its program is strictly for generating electricity.

U.S. wreckage, bodies found in Afghanistan

By STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Rescuers on Tuesday found the wreckage of a missing U.S. aircraft and the bodies of several Americans who were aboard when it crashed in snow-covered mountains over the weekend, Afghan police said.

The transport plane, which was carrying three American crewmembers and three U.S. soldiers, was headed south of Bagram in the heart of the Hindu Kush mountains, said Ghulam Mohammad, a senior police official in Bamyan.

"They found pieces of the engine and the wheels scattered on top of Baba Mountain," which rises to 16,600 feet and was covered in fresh snow, Mohammad said.

He said several bodies had been recovered from the crash site and taken to the main U.S. military base at Bagram, from where it had departed on Saturday.

He had no information on the identities of the bodies found. There was no suggestion that anyone had survived.

The American military announced earlier Tuesday that the plane was missing and that

search-and-rescue teams were struggling to reach the area where they suspected it came down.

A spokesman declined on Tuesday evening to say whether it had crashed or if any of the occupants were killed.

The C-130 transport plane was operated by Florida-based Presidential Airways and was contracted to the U.S. Air Force in Afghanistan, U.S. military spokesman Mark McCann said.

The fixed-wing plane is designed to fly in and out of the kind of short, rough air strips used to supply American forces deployed in remote areas of the country to search for Taliban and al-Qaida militants.

Accidents have accounted for most of the more than 100 deaths of U.S. servicemen since Operation Enduring Freedom began in October of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

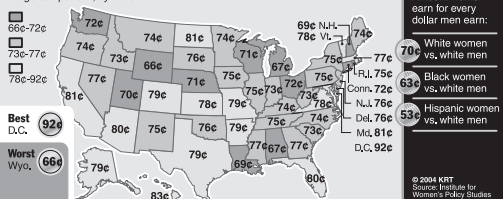
Many have involved helicopters, and the most recent fatality was that of an American airman fatally wounded on Oct. 20 when his search-and-rescue chopper crashed near the Iranian border due to technical problems.

The last combat deaths were those of two U.S. soldiers killed by a roadside bomb last Wednesday in Uruzgan province.

YOUR MONEY

Women's wages vs. men's

In 2002, U.S. women earned 76 cents for every dollar men earned. Wage comparison, by state.



By race, ethnic group

Amount women earn for every dollar men earn:



© 2004 KRT Source: Institute for Women's Policy Studies

.C. tops nation in women's pay

BY AMY JOYCE
The Washington Post

The District of Columbia ranks ahead of all 50 states in women's median wage, according to a new state-by-state report on the status of women.

Nationally, women are still decades away from achieving pay equity with men, according to the report. When race is factored in, the wage gap is even larger and will take women's color longer to close. The difference among women shows up sharply in the District, where the median annual salary for black women was no more than \$20,000 less than for white women.

But overall, women who work full time in Washington come closest to matching men's salaries, with a median annual salary of \$37,800, 92.4 percent of what men are paid. The District also led the survey with 49.3 percent of women in managerial or professional positions.

Nearly, Maryland women's median income of \$37,200 is 81.4 percent of what men there earn. The median makes the midpoint of salaries paid, with half of workers earning above that amount and half below.

Virginia is ranked eighth overall, with its women making a median income of \$32,400 — 77.9 percent of what men make. The state ranked 15th in 2002.

Nationally, American women are paid 76 cents for every dollar men earn, the study of 2001-02 Census Bureau data found. Two years earlier, it was 72.7 cents on the dollar. That wage gap continues to close at its current rate — a little less than 0.5 percent a year on average over the past 13 years — it will be another 50 years before it disappears, according to the study's analysis. Job-hopping women do tend to be valued and paid less," said Heidi Hartmann, an economist and president of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, which compiled the study. "It takes time to overcome people's ideas that women aren't committed to their work. Even when women work the same jobs as men, they will, in fact, experience discrimination in pay because of attitudes and expectations."

Nationally, compared with white men, white women made 70 cents on the dollar, all women made less than 68 cents on the dollar, and Hispanic women made less than 63 cents on the dollar, and Hispanic women were paid just slightly more than half of white men's median salary, the report said.

Be cautious when saving screen saver

Q. My Windows screen saver would always work. All of a sudden it quit working. I tried everything I could think of and cannot make it quit. I don't know what happened.

The only thing I can think of is it must have been some automatic update that made it quit working. I have a Pentium 4-based computer, with Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition and Service Pack 2. Thank you for your screen saver.

Dick Sommerfeldt, Tomah, Wis.

A. Screen savers, which are small programs with the extension SCR, date back to a time when primitive monitor screens were susceptible to burn-in, a phenomenon in which something displayed for long periods of time in the same spot would eventually remain as a ghost image after being removed. Screen savers kick in and present a changing display that would prevent burn-in if it were a problem. Like you, Mr. S., lots of folks took a liking to the things, even though they are not needed these days.

Currently, many folks encounter screen-saver glitches after upgrading to Windows XP Service Pack 2 update to Windows XP because some of the screen savers built in to Windows were rewritten as part of this security patch for the operating system. Even though you don't give the name of the screen saver that you really miss,

you can find and fix whatever it is after getting a general description about finding and installing these popular little utilities.

First a warning, and it's a serious alarm, indeed. A good number of viruses come disguised as screen savers, because running a screen saver executes program code. Viruses need to trick a victim into executing a program to do their mischief.

To find all of the screen savers, use the Windows Search tool under the Start menu and type in the keyword (ASTERISK-SF) and click OK.

You will get a list of all of the SCR files in the drive, including the ones Service Pack 2 had replaced plus the new versions.

To ensure safety from hackers, right-click on a SCR file and select Properties. This brings up the select file's information tab called Version, which includes the name of the file's creator. Make sure it is Microsoft or some other outfit you trust. Now look at the top of the right-click menu for the Test command, which will run the SCR file for display only.

Once you find the SCR of your dreams, look for the Install command in the same right-click menu and run it. This will make the selected file your default screen saver.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: coates@tribune.com or via snail mail at: 532 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Questions are answered only through this column. Add your point of view at: www.chicagotribune.com/askjim.

Ask Jim

Jim Coates

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
High	Low	High	Low	High
52-week	52-week	52-week	52-week	52-week
High	Low	High	Low	High
10,753.1	10,629.57	Dow Jones Industrial	14,618.90	46.31
3,654.89	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	1,055.13	+2.14
255.22	245.42	Dow Jones Utilities	338.52	3.06
7,659.59	5,942.32	NYSE Composite	7,832.23	-14.46
1,408.48	1,066.28	NYSE Midcap	1,408.78	+1.46
513.83	429.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,186.87	+4.28
1,186.48	1,035.28	S&P 500	1,178.57	-4.88
642.13	546.29	S&P MidCap	639.03	-1.40
632.77	515.90	Russell 2000	634.86	+3.30
11,376.46	10,998.57	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,695.98	+1.27

NYSE					AMEX					NASDAQ				
Most Active (\$1.00 or more)					Most Active (\$1.00 or more)					Most Active (\$1.00 or more)				
Name	Vol	(%)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	(%)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	(%)	Last	Chg
Lacert	397,870	1.39	+41.1		Nasdaq	92,939	31.21	+0.1		SinTech	2,019,918	6.18	+1.8	
Marathon	11,017	3.51	+4.1		Boeing	29,662	3.54	+0.1		Marathon	11,017	3.51	+4.1	
Boeing	29,662	3.54	+0.1		Goldman	249,519	51.31	+1.1		Goldman	249,519	51.31	+1.1	
Goldman	249,519	51.31	+1.1		Wal-Mart	549,519	51.31	+1.1		Wal-Mart	549,519	51.31	+1.1	
Wal-Mart	549,519	51.31	+1.1		Microsoft	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Microsoft	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
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MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
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MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
Johnson	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46		MetLife	1,031,316	44.36	+0.46	
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KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	Vol	FE	LA	NY
Alliant Technologies	-	17	65.09	+2.4
Airbus	29	42.83	+2.38	+0.03
Boeing	18	53.62	+0.27	+0.2
Lockheed Martin	24	53.47	+1.11	+0.11
General Dynamics	24	53.47	+1.12	+0.11
Raytheon	24	53.47	+1.12	+0.11
Northrop	24	53.47	+1.12	+0.11
Boeing	24	53.47	+1.12	+0.11
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OPINION

U.S. pays for U.N.'s mistakes in many ways

The horse manure is piled higher than ever, and it stinks in high heaven.

But despite all the evidence to the contrary, many of us still think there must be a pony in there somewhere.

Jack Kelly



The lingering support for the United Nations among Americans is a triumph of hope over experience. The U.N. was (largely) the brainchild of American liberals, who thought that if only the nations of the world had a place where they could talk out their differences, we could put an end to war and all sorts of other bad stuff.

This didn't work so well with the League of Nations, followed by World War I to end all wars, but learning from experience is not something liberals do much of.

It wasn't long before our creation bit us in the tush.

We want the United Nations to promote world peace. But for the most part of the organization is to place shackles on American power.

When a nation is as powerful as ours, it's understandable that the Lilliputians would feel that they have a common interest in restraining Gulliver. What isn't so understandable is why the United States should continue to host, and (largely) pay for, an organization that has made frustrating us its raison d'être.

Most of us would put up with a lot of frustration if it would lead to less violence, hunger, poverty and disease in the world. But the U.N. today doesn't do what we imagined it would do back to those heady, idealistic

days at Dumbarton Oaks.

Consider the U.N.'s role in resolving the current political crisis in Ukraine. What role, you ask? Precisely.

Tens of thousands of Ukrainian villagers in the Darfur region of Sudan are being murdered by Arabs, with the complicity of the Sudanese government. What is the U.N. doing about it? Just what it is doing to resolve the political crisis in the Ukraine.

But it could be said that the Ukrainians and the Sudanese in Darfur are more fortunate than those poor souls who have received U.N. "help" in the past. U.N. peacekeepers idly watched genocide in Rwanda, and actually facilitated it in Bosnia. U.N. peacekeepers in the Congo are known best for sexually molesting women under their "protection."

The U.N.'s Oil for Food program has become the biggest financial scandal in the history of the world. With the complicity of U.N. officials — including the son of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan — Saddam Hussein took at least \$21 billion that was meant to provide food and medicine for poor Iraqis and spent it on palaces, weapons, rewards for terrorists and bribes for Security Council members France, Germany and Russia.

Oil for Food is the mother of all U.N. financial scandals, but is hardly the first. In a 1995 paper, Stefan Halper of the Cato Institute described the organization as "a miasma of corruption." Former U.N. aid workers Kenneth Cain, Heidi Posedel and Andrew Thomson describe how the U.N. "helps" people in their book "Emergency Sex and Other Desperate Measures." With the United Nations, the difficulty is not in finding corruption; it's finding a U.N. program that isn't awash in it.

Horse is losing ground to experience. In a recent poll, 60 percent of Americans said the U.N. is doing "a poor job."



Annan is aware he has a public relations problem. He appointed a commission of big shots to recommend reforms. The High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change will make its report Thursday.

The panel will say that the U.N. must condemn all terror attacks on civilians or lose its moral authority, the London Telegraph said Monday.

This won't sit well with the kleptocrats who control the General Assembly. They've blocked for years a comprehensive U.N. convention on terrorism on the grounds that it should exclude groups fighting "occupation" or "colonialism," and likely will do so again.

We shouldn't stand for it. If the U.N. con-

tinues to turn its back on reform, we should turn our backs to it.

We hold the high cards. The U.N. cannot survive without our financial contribution (22 percent of its total budget). And few in the U.N. bureaucracy would relish relinquishing the ambience of New York for the delights of, say, Zimbabwe.

A U.N. that actually would promote liberty, democracy and human rights would be eminently worthwhile. But no U.N. at all would be an improvement over the one we've got now.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Until U.S. pays as it goes, dollar will keep dropping

When President Bush met the leaders of 20 Asian and Pacific nations last week, he wanted to talk about North Korea and Iran. But those nations had another security crisis on their minds — the fall of the dollar.

Daniel Snieder



The dollar is now down to nine-year lows and there are more jitters about a financial crisis. If foreign lenders lose confidence, they could trigger a fresh collapse of the dollar. As the cost of imports rises, inflation could jump. And interest rates for banks and home buyers would

soar as investors demand a higher return for their greater risk.

That scenario is probably overdrawn. But the dollar's drop reflects the belief that the American economy is not healthy.

The signs of illness are two huge and growing imbalances — the federal budget deficit and the current account deficit, the shortfall between what America takes in from the world through trade and investment and what it spends. In 1999 the global balance stood at zero. Now the United States is \$665 billion in the hole.

President Bush made soothing noises at the Asian Pacific economic summit about the commitment to a "strong dollar." But investors correctly read the signals that the actual policy is to let markets drive down the value of the dollar in an orderly way.

The administration sees dollar devaluation as a way to correct a global imbalance. It will make American exports cheaper and

more competitive and imports more expensive for American consumers. They are confident the United States remains an attractive place for the world to park its money.

Those currencies that trade freely (the euro, Canadian dollar, British pound and, lately, the Japanese yen) have gone up rapidly in value against the dollar in the last few weeks. The one major trading partner that has escaped so far is China, whose currency is fixed to the value of the dollar. The Chinese want to keep their exports cheap but American pressure may force a small revaluation of its currency.

Our trading partners are unhappy about the dollar's slide. But this is needed correction. The danger is the fall will encourage countries to reduce their dollar holdings, shifting to euros, gold or Japanese stocks

whose value has been rising.

The problem for the United States is that those dollars are now financing our huge budget deficit, which will hit \$450 billion this year. The administration has been unwilling to ask Americans to pay for the war on terror and the war in Iraq.

The twin deficits are driven in part by the growing difference between what Americans spend and what they earn. American savings — both household, corporate and, of course, government savings — have deteriorated greatly in the last five years. Instead we borrow money abroad.

The Chinese, emboldened by the reality that we depend on their dollars, now happily lecture us on our profligate ways.

It is true that Americans consume more than they produce. But we can keep doing it,

up to a point, because the folks who import from (mostly, but not entirely, in Asia) are happy to produce more than they consume and to lend us money to buy their stuff.

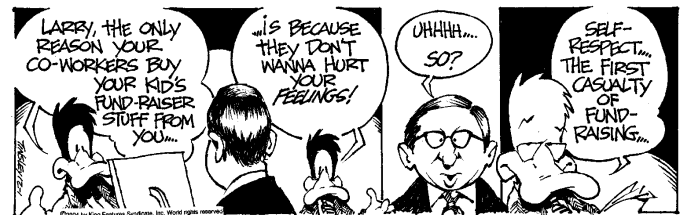
"We are stuck with each other — they are the lenders of last resort and we are the consumers of last resort," says Robert Madsen, senior fellow at MIT's Center for International Studies and an expert on Asian economies. "If they stopped lending we would have a lot of trouble. If we stopped consuming, they would go into recession." ...

Ultimately America needs to reduce a dangerous dependency on foreign lenders. The only way to do that is to save more and to pay for what we spend on our ourselves and our government.

Daniel Snieder is foreign affairs columnist for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Wolf hunts resume

AK FAIRBANKS — State officials have begun issuing permits for aerial hunters to kill wolves in parts of Alaska in an effort to boost moose and caribou populations.

The first pilot-gunner teams killed four wolves after the Alaska Department of Fish and Game began issuing the permits.

Officials want to cull about 500 wolves in various parts of the state to control their numbers this winter. Alaska's wolf population is estimated at 8,000 to 11,000 and hunters and trappers kill an average of 1,500 a year, officials said.

Firefighter accused

FL JACKSONVILLE — A firefighter was charged with plotting to entrap his chief in a phony rape scheme so his friend could replace him, officials said.

Edward Colleton, 38, was charged with conspiring to commit official misconduct and criminal solicitation. He was jailed on \$250,000 bail.

Police said Colleton tried to convince a former fire department employee to entice District Fire Chief Alonzo McQueen to have sex with her, then report she had been raped.

The woman instead revealed the plot to police.

Prison party restricted

NH CONCORD — There will be no family holiday party this year for prison inmates who don't have young children.

In the past, inmates at some prisons were allowed to invite family members for a cold-cut buffet, a gift exchange and photos with Santa.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Stephen Curry has restricted parties this year to inmates with children younger than 18.

Corrections spokesman Jeff Lyons said the issue is money.

ACLU supports site

VA RICHMOND — The American Civil Liberties Union filed court papers in support of a New York man who runs a Web site critical of the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

The Virginia and national ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in support of Christopher Lamparello, who runs the Web site fallwell.com.

Falwell, a religious broadcaster based in Lynchburg, sued Lamparello last year in federal court in Alexandria, arguing that Lamparello violated federal trademark law by using a common misspelling of Falwell's name as a domain name.

U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton ruled in favor of Falwell, saying the domain name was "nearly identical" to the registered trademark "Jerry Falwell" name and was likely to confuse Web surfers.

'Reverse 911' bought

TX AUSTIN — Emergency personnel in Central Texas counties will soon be able to call and notify residents of an

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

emergency.

Using a \$200,000 grant from Homeland Security Department, the Capital Area Council of Governments has bought computer equipment and phone lines for a system often called "reverse 911" that allows emergency personnel to call residents and play a recorded message with instructions in the event of an emergency.

Austin and Round Rock already have the system, which does not ring cell phones.

Council employees said they hope to have the system operational within 12 weeks in Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Lee and Llano counties.

Restaurateurs charged

NY NEW YORK — Six restaurant operators — including the owner of a pricey Italian restaurant in Manhattan — have been charged with offering bribes to agents posing as health inspectors, authorities said.

Campagnola Restaurant on First Avenue, where a meal can cost up to \$80 per person, was among the restaurants cited in the Department of Investigation sting.

The restaurant's owner, Salvatore Lombardi, 43, allegedly offered agents \$250 to overlook violations including uncovered meat dripping oil onto the floor, the

DOI said.

He and the owners of five other establishments in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens had been arraigned on charges of felony bribery and could face up to seven years in prison if convicted, said Emily Gest, a DOI spokeswoman.

The DOI said the largest bribe offered was at Everfresh Joy, where an agent was allegedly offered \$600 after finding meat thawing among dirty dishes in a sink.

Man kills wife, self

FL LAKELAND — A man killed his estranged wife, then shot himself in the head in front of his three young daughters and sheriff's deputies.

Raymond Gans, 27, died a day after turning the gun on himself. The shooting occurred at a roadblock as the deputies approached a van where Gans sat with 3-year-old twins Jordy and Melkayla, and 1-year-old Bambi.

Gans was trying to flee after killing his wife, authorities said.

The body of Jennifer Jill Gans, 25, was found in a box of her belongings she had tried to retrieve from the home of Raymond Gans' parents, where he had been staying.

Youths arrested

PA READING — Some juveniles believed to be members of an international gang have been arrested for minor offenses in Reading, police Chief Charles R. Broad said, leading to concern that they may commit more serious crimes.

Recent reports of gunshots near Reading High School and an increase in after-school fights there may be linked to the gang, known as Mara Salvatrucha, Broad said. He added that gangs that have been around Reading for a longer time commit crimes recklessly in an effort to prove themselves, but he said Mara Salvatrucha is more organized.

Chicks take flight

AZ GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK — Two California condor chicks that were hatched in the wild have successfully taken their inaugural flights, officials said.

This is the second straight year that California condors have hatched and flown since the birds were reintroduced into the wild in Arizona.

Condors, the largest birds in North America with a wingspan of about 9 feet, were driven to near extinction in the 1980s.

Kentucky 'unbrided'

KY SIMPSONVILLE — "Kentucky: Unbrided Spirit" is the state's new name brand.

It was selected from four finalists in Gov. Ernie Fletcher's quest to give the state a fresher marketing slogan. The brand will be seen on government signs, stationery, souvenirs and state advertising.

Fletcher said after the announcement the new slogan was a good choice and one that he voted for personally.

Kentucky residents and nonresidents were asked to vote on the state's new image.



Not in the Christmas cheer Mall Santa Joe Kutnyak encounters a crying 6-month-old Madisynn Templeton at Westfield Shoppingtown in Vancouver, Wash.



Snow pie in the face Justin Randall, 9, is hit with a pile of snow by Dee Dee Lee while taking part in a snowball fight in Burlington, Iowa.



It's a leaf party! Children play with leaves in Fort Smith, Ark. From left are J'Lisa Thompson, 10, Brianna Thompson, 6, Maggie West, 8, and Ariel Mosley, 4.



Sunset ice skating

People skate on an ice rink as the **Ferry Building stands in the background at dusk in downtown San Francisco.**



Competitive surfing Sunny Garcia of Hawaii shreds the lip to win the Vans Hawaiian Pro in Haleiwa, Hawaii.



Animated school spirit Sheelana West cheers on the Alaska-Anchorage basketball team during a Great Alaska Shootout game against Furman in Anchorage, Alaska.



Hold on! Diego Briseno rides a plastic skimmer down a snow-covered hill in Cloudcroft, N.M.



A gloomy ride home A motorist drives down Sheep Creek Road in Phelan, Calif., as clouds cover a full moon. Mother Nature slowed traffic in the Phelan and Wrightwood area, as well as the nearby Interstate 15 through the Cajon Pass.

Elevator death

NY NEW YORK — A 76-year-old man about to leave for a vacation in the Caribbean died when he fell down an elevator shaft in his Manhattan apartment building, police said.

Edward Helig and his wife were riding the building's freight elevator with their luggage when the elevator stalled between the 14th and 15th floors at about 3 p.m. Sunday, police said.

Helig tried to step out onto the 14th floor but slipped into the shaft instead.

It appeared the elevator stalled because the safety gate had not been closed properly, she said.

Home blast injures 2

TX SAN ANTONIO — An explosion at a Central Texas home has injured two people, authorities say.

The victims were airlifted from the New Braunfels area to Brooke Army Medical Center following the blast. They sustained second- and third-degree burns over 30 percent to 50 percent of their bodies. Their names have not been released.

Neighbors had reported smelling propane in the area recently, New Braunfels Fire Department battalion chief Frank Gonzales told the online edition of the San Antonio Express-News.

Cargo trains collide

FL RICHLAND — Two cargo trains collided head-on in west-central Florida, killing one person and injuring three others, authorities said.

About 10 cars derailed after the collision in Richland, about 25 miles northeast of Tampa, said Kevin Doll, a spokesman for the Pasco County Sheriff's office.

Officials did not immediately know what caused the accident.

Kids enforce speed limit

MO LEE'S SUMMIT — Police officer Jim Doiron is enlisting the help of Prairie View Elementary School students to catch people driving over the speed limit. Students at the suburban Kansas City school use radars on oncoming traffic to catch speeders. State and local traffic safety officials say they don't know of any similar programs.

Stealing from the poor

PA ALLENTOWN — A gun-wielding robber swiped a Salvation Army kettle from the front of a supermarket, police said.

Jerlene Howard said that she was ringing her bell to summon shoppers to her kettle in front of Ahart's Market when a man, wearing a scarf over his face, approached with something other than charity on his mind.

"He pulled up in a burgundy car and got out and told me to give him the kettle," Howard said. He "had a gun and he told me not to say anything," she said.

Howard said her kettle was "kind of heavy," but she didn't know exactly how much money was inside.

Ammonia spill at plant

IA WEST LIBERTY — Fumes from an ammonia spill at an eastern Iowa meat processing plant Sunday forced the evacuation of a three-block area surrounding the plant and made at least five residents ill.

Fire Chief Curt Newcomb said residents from around the West Liberty Foods plant were taken to an Iowa City hospital, but he did not know the severity of the injuries.

The spill at the plant, which employs more than 1,100 workers, was blamed on a mechanical failure in a refrigeration unit, according to a statement from Gerald Lessard, vice president of operations.

The failure was repaired and no meat products were affected, the statement said.

Deportation confusion

OR PORTLAND — A 27-year-old woman from South Africa, who was deported after her American husband died in a car crash, is voluntarily returning to her country to tend to her sick father, further confusing an already entangled immigration battle.

Carla Arabella Freeman was handcuffed, shackled and ordered deported at her immigration hearing in Portland in May, after immigration authorities discovered that she had been married to her husband for only 11 months.

Under immigration law, foreign nationals who are married to U.S. citizens for less than two years automatically lose their right to permanent residence upon their spouses' death.

At least 25 others — almost all widows — are currently embroiled in similar deportation proceedings.

Domestic violence laws

NC RALEIGH — Victims of domestic violence will have more protection from the courts when sweeping changes to state law take effect. New domestic violence provisions create a new crime of assault by strangulation, now a felony. It used to be a misdemeanor. The strangulation offense could bring up to two years in prison for an offender, potentially preventing more attacks in the same relationship, activists said.

Drive-by kills 7-year-old

MI DETROIT — A drive-by gunman fired into a house, killing a 7-year-old girl who was sitting on a couch, police said.

A 38-year-old man was arrested after the shooting.

Family members identified the victim as Diva White. "She never had a chance to enjoy life or spread the love that I know she was going to spread to everyone," said her uncle, Immanuel Daniels.

The girl's grandmother was home at the time.

Police say the suspect told a friend that he had carried out a drive-by shooting and the friend called police, leading to the arrest.

Stories and photos from wire services

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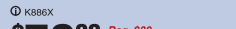


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AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2004

AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00 Stanley: Junior meets a lion. Sagwa-Siames Cat	Movie: "Dying to Dance" (2000, Drama) Kimberly McCullough. Anorexia destroys a young ballet dancer's career.	Dr. Phil	Jacopelli	Nightline	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Meals	Jacopelli
10:00 Arthur (E)	10:00 Movie: "Never Been Kissed" (1999, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, David Arquette.	(8-46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Food #11	Headline News
10:30 On the Lions "Teats"		(35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor		Sensible Chic	ESPN
11:00 Sagwa-Siames Cat		(16) Movie: "The Parkers"	The Parkers			Fashion File	The Parkers
11:30 Stanley		(17) General Hospital	Arrested Development			El News Live	Arrested Development
12:00 Dora the Explorer		Headline News	America's Next Top Model	CHN Daybreak	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	America's Next Top Model
12:30 The Wiggles "Food"		Judge Judy		Good Morning America	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	Girlfriends	Girlfriends
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie: "Never Been Kissed" (1999, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, David Arquette.	Today Tom Brokaw, Heidi Krum, Today's Holiday Kitchen.	Las Vegas "The Big Bang"			Charmed "Long Live the Queen"	Las Vegas "The Big Bang"
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)						Aly McBeal "I Will Survive"	Pacific Report
14:00 Blue's Clues "Friend pbs."						Any Day Now "Children Are the Most Important Thing"	Late Show
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)	Movie: "First Knight" (1995, Adventure) Sean Connery, Richard Gere, Guy Pearce. The evil Maelgwn threatens the peace of Camelot.	Sylvester & Tweety	The Tonight Show	Headline News	SportsCenter	ER "The Letter"	Access Hollywood
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Buzz Lightyear of Star	Late Show	Channel One		Law & Order "Disappeared"	Headline News
15:30 Full House "The Wedding"		The Fairly OddParents		The Early Show	NFL's Greatest Moments	The Late Late Show	The Late Late Show
16:00 Pokemon "Team Arceus"		My Life as a Teenage Robot	Access Hollywood			The Simpsons	Everybody Loves Raymond
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)		Jacopelli	Headline News			The Amazing Race	Dennis Miller
17:00 Aaahh! Real Monsters	Inside the Actors Studio William H. Macy.	Headline News	Las Vegas "The Big Bang"			Christmas in Rockefeller Center	Countdown With Keith Olsen
17:30 Rocket Power	Coming Attractions	Headline News				NBA Inside Stuff	Entertainment Studios.com
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Coming Attractions	ESPNs				Discovery Specials: Natural Wonders (Part 1 of 2)	The Hot List
18:30 Rugrats	Movie: "Erin Brockovich" (2000, Drama) Julia Roberts, Albert Finney. A woman probes a power company's cover-up over poisoned water.	AFN Evening News	Headline News			Friends	Headline News
19:00 Even Stevens "After Hours"		The Parkers	Countdown With Keith Olsen			Seinfeld "The Andrea Doria"	Today Tom Brokaw, Heidi Krum, Today's Holiday Kitchen.
19:30 Kanan & Kai		Arrested Development	Entertainment Studios.com			The Hot List	
20:00 Gilmore Girls "Hammers and Nails" (Part 2 of 2)		America's Next Top Model	The Hot List			Friends	
20:30 Degraess: Next		Las Vegas "The Big Bang"	Headline News			Seinfeld "The Andrea Doria"	
21:00 Degraess: Next		Headline News	Headline News			Around the Horn	
21:30 The Cosby Show		Today Tom Brokaw, Heidi Krum, Today's Holiday Kitchen.	Headline News			Pardon the Interruption	
22:00 Home Improvement		The Tonight Show	Late Show			Blind Date	
22:30 Touched by an Angel "A Debt to Balance"	Movie: "Airplane!" (1980, Comedy) Robert Hays.	Late Show					
23:30							
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2004							
00:00 Hey Arnold!	(11:30) Movie: "Airplane!" (1980, Comedy) Robert Hays.	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30 Rocket Power	(14:30) Movie: "Dance With Me" (1986, Drama) Vanessa A. Williams, Chayanne. A Cuban dancer's life dancing ability at a U.S. dance club.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		The Amazing Race	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants		Sports	Wheel of Fortune	ABC World News Tonight	College Basketball Wake Forest at Illinois, (Live)	Christmas in Rockefeller Center	Wheel of Fortune
2:00 Even Stevens "After Hours"		Dr. Phil	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	College Basketball North Carolina at Indiana, (Live)	Friends	Oprah Winfrey
2:30 Kanan & Kai			NBC Nightly News	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Seinfeld "The Andrea Doria"	Judge Judy
3:00 Gilmore Girls "Hammers and Nails" (Part 2 of 2)			Access Hollywood	Low Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
4:00 Degraess: Next			(25) The View	Body Shaping	(11) ESPNs	Body Shaping	(25) The View
4:30 Degraess: Next			(31) General Hospital	NFL Live	NFL Live	Typical Mary Ellen	(31) General Hospital
5:00 Sesame Street (E)			Play With Me Sesame	60 Minutes	NFL Game of the Week	The View	Legend of Tarzan
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)			Bear in the Big Blue House	Rock's Modern Life	SportsCenter	Eneri Live	Aaahh! Real Monsters
6:00 Blue's Clues			Boothall (E)	Beck's Nightly News		Eneri Live	Sabrina: The Animated Series
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)			Wheel of Fortune	In the Mix "Unplugged"		Eneri Live	In the Mix "Unplugged"
7:30 Bob the Builder			Dr. Phil	Jacopelli		Eneri Live	NBC Nightly News
8:00 The Wiggles			Headline News	Nightly Business Report		Eneri Live	Headline News
9:00 Stanley "Hippo Helpers"			(8-46) Oprah Winfrey	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Eneri Live	Headline News
9:30 Sagwa-Siames Cat			(35) The View	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	Eneri Live	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)			(17) General Hospital	Two and a Half Men		Eneri Live	Headline News
10:30 On the Lions (E)			Headline News	The Apprentice		Eneri Live	Headline News
11:00 Sagwa-Siames Cat			Judge Judy	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Paper or Plastic?"		Eneri Live	Headline News
11:30 Stanley "A Whale of a Song"			Today Kathie Lee Gifford.	Good Morning America		Eneri Live	Headline News
12:00 The Wiggles			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
12:30 Dragon Tales (E)			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
13:00 Dragon Tales (E)			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
14:00 Blue's Clues "Nature"			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
15:30 Full House "The Wedding"			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
16:00 Pokemon "The City of Hoenn"			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! "Mime Control"			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
17:00 Rocket Power			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
18:30 Rugrats			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
19:00 That's So Raven			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
19:30 All That			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
20:00 7th Heaven "It's Not Always about You"			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
20:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
21:30 The Cosby Show			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
22:00 Home Improvement			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
22:30 Touched by an Angel "The Road Home" (Part 1 of 2)			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
23:00			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News
23:30			Headline News			Eneri Live	Headline News

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Your Hometown Newspaper

FACES

After arriving on Harley motorcycles, Jim Belushi, left, and Dan Aykroyd perform "Sweet Home Chicago" at the new House of Blues in Cleveland on Sunday.



House of Blues opens in Cleveland

Jim Belushi and Dan Aykroyd arrived on Harley motorcycles and also hammed it up with a performance of "Sweet Home Chicago" at the opening of the newest House of Blues in a renovated storefront in Cleveland.

More than 2,000 people turned out for Sunday night's gala opening. Belushi and Aykroyd arrived wearing black leather coats and escorted Mayor Jane Campbell into the concert and restaurant complex. They also performed as the Blues Brothers, wearing black suits, white shirts, black ties and black fedoras, for the evening's finale, opening their set with "Sweet Home Chicago."

The club has a 1,200-seat performance hall, a 300-seat restaurant and six bars.

Aykroyd is a board member of the House of Blues, which also operates clubs in seven other cities. Belushi's brother, John, was a co-founder of the Blues Brothers.

'Wind' is tops in British film poll

"Gone With the Wind," the American Civil War saga starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, is the most-watched movie in British history, according to the British Film Institute.

Some 35 million people have seen "Gone With the Wind" since its release in Britain in 1940, according to a tally of movie tickets sold, the institute said Sunday.

"The Sound of Music" is in the No. 2 spot with an estimated 30 million tickets sold since its release in 1965, followed by "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," released in 1938 and seen by 28 million people, and "George Lucas' Star Wars," released in Britain in 1978, with 20.7 million tickets sold.

One-third of the films in the top 100 are British, led by the 1948 romantic comedy, "Spring in Park Lane," which is in fifth place with 20.5 million tickets sold.

Spielberg's 'Jokes' to shoot in Virginia

Scenes for the Martian-invasion film "War of the Worlds," directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Tom Cruise, will be shot in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, according to an area tourism official.

Jean Clark, tourism director for the Rockbridge County area, said she doesn't know exactly when or where the movie will be shot in the valley. But, "I know they're shooting something," she said.

Clark expects filming in the area will wrap up before the year's end.

Movie publicist Deborah Wuliger said filming is now taking place in New Jersey, and industry publication Variety reported that Spielberg is also shooting scenes in upstate New York.

Paramount Pictures and DreamWorks are financing the movie, a modern version of the H.G. Wells novel. It is scheduled for release next summer.



Spielberg

Magician Penn marries girlfriend

Magician Penn Jillette married his girlfriend during an impromptu ceremony at a Las Vegas wedding chapel, his spokesman said Monday.

Jillette, 49, the speaking half of the Penn & Teller duo, tied the knot with Emily Zolten, 38, a television producer on Nov. 23, according to the marriage license.

Country singer pleads guilty

Mindy McCready, who had a No. 1 hit in 1996 with "Guys Do It All the Time," pleaded guilty Monday to purchasing painkillers with a false prescription.

The country singer was fined \$4,000, sentenced to three years of supervised probation and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

McCready, who turned 29 Tuesday, was accused of fraudulently obtaining OxyContin at a Brentwood, Tenn., pharmacy in February.

Stories and photos from the Associated Press



PAX TV

Comedienne Elaine Boosler finds her sense of humor is fine-tuned while she hosts PAX-TV's "Balderdash"

Littering the funny spot

After 25 years of hard work, Elaine Boosler finds stand-up jokes coming easier

BY LUIAINE LEE

Scripps Howard News Service

Comedienne Elaine Boosler says she finally figured out the trick to being funny.

"It took me 25 years to find out, 'Oh, I've finally hit the spot, the Zen spot where I can't fail,'" she says.

"It's very interesting. For 25 years, I could've had a few errors and been benched. I didn't have this formula for kidding, this little spot that no matter what it is, I know they got the show. There's just a spot."

Though Boosler knew she had a cockeyed way of viewing the world, she wasn't always good at expressing it through her comedy.

"I never thought ... that I couldn't do it. The 25 years it was just more of a roller coaster. Now it's like being Teflon. I never had bad shows, but it took more work. Now it's just, 'C'mon, let it fly!'"

Boosler plies that expertise in her latest job as the antic host of PAX TV's game show, "Balderdash."

She corals three celebrity comics who feed phony answers to two contestants. The winner is the combatant who doesn't buy the balderdash.

The show is a means to an end for Boosler, the end always being standup.

"Nothing has been as much fun as stand-up and this (show) comes close, because it's literally like hanging out with comedians after the show in a coffee shop, because it's unscripted. It's so spontaneous, and that's what I love about it," she says.

Boosler, 52, claims she wasn't a class cut-up at school because she was a class cut-out.

"I probably would've gotten in trouble at school if I'd gone, but I wisely stayed out. I think one time I got a record card, and it had how many days absent. It said, 'One hun-

dred and four days absent.' So I erased the 100 and made it four. My dad said, 'You were absent four days? You're going to be in big trouble.' I thought, 'Oh, dear.'

"In those days they had what was called a general diploma as opposed to an academic diploma. It means they saw you once or twice. 'We need the seat.' That's what I got."

When she struck out on her own at 18, she thought she might be a singer.

But comedian Andy Kaufman scotched that idea. He encouraged her to go on stage one night and "just talk." She tried it and has been doing that ever since.

She credits Kaufman "the love of my life, my guru, my teacher, my everything," with giving her the confidence to go on. She and Kaufman lived together for three years and remained good friends afterward.

"Somehow he showed up at every club at every city at my worst time," she says.

"I'd be onstage dying in Fargo, North Dakota, and I'd hear Andy Kaufman out of the dark, say, 'Talk about your mother.' It was, 'Oh my God, how did he know I was here?' It was like having Tinkerbell."

When Kaufman died, her life changed, she says.

"Andy's death made me fearless and made me realize that time was finite. And it's the reason I did my first special with the three cents I had in the bank when nobody wanted me. I had nine cents and did this special, and they still didn't buy it because they said, 'We can't put a woman on for an hour,'" she says, shaking her head.

"I was in debt up to my — and had this beautiful home movie on my shelf. I went on the road to pay everybody off and always knew if younger, hipper people came in (to the network) the show would sell. And after a year, younger, hipper people came in and they said, 'This is great.'

"His death shot me into action and confidence so that was one more thing he gave me after he was gone."

"It's literally like hanging out with comedians after the show in a coffee shop, because it's unscripted. It's so spontaneous, and that's what I love about it."

Elaine Boosler

"Balderdash" game show host

Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the
upper 50s, Wednesday lows in
the 30s to low 50s.

weather watches

public.sembach.af.mil

MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
ghdad)	5:49am	5:49am
ankfurt)	8:03am	8:04am
ghdad)	3:56pm	3:56pm
ankfurt)	4:27pm	4:26pm



First qtr.



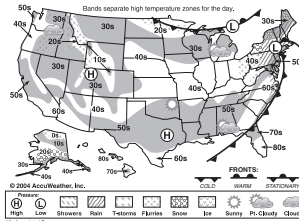
Full moon



Last qtr.

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



AFET
is holiday season!

U.S. ARMY IN EUROPE

- Select safe toys with protective gear.
- Keep burning candles out of children's reach.
- Turn lights off when you go to bed.
- Don't overload outlets or transformers.

- Choose a fresh or fire-resistant artificial tree
- Decorate the tree with children in mind
- Make sure smoke alarms are operative
- Keep alcohol and poison plants away from children

Horoscope

There are no exact aspects to speak of in the heavens today, and that is, in and of itself, remarkable. It's an opportunity for viewing a million shades of gray in the spectrum between black and white. Since we can never really know what it's like to experience life as someone else, extending the benefit of the doubt is the natural thing to do.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 1). This year finally highlights an under-rated area of your life — fun and recreation.

Small breakthroughs in the next five weeks get you participating in new circles and interests. Dates and business contacts spring from your playtime. Sock away some of the extra money you make for travel in the spring. Long love is featured with Pisces and Aries.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You and a colleague have substantial differences, but you cannot deny your admiration. Be sure to acknowledge others for their contributions, and your way is made easier. To-night, challenge someone to take action.

Taurus (April 20-May 20).

The world is not black and white. But you do need to make choices in life, and sometimes, the choices have obvious consequences. Denial, stalling yourself to the minutiae will make doing what you have to do easier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be in a position to say something meaningful. Choosing the exact right words will be key. Otherwise, your subjects miss the point. At work, do your research, and make sure you're not raising a moot point.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). But you've got it better. Admire it! Praise it! Cherish it! Avoid thinking about the great job/date/apartment you didn't get. There will always be another better job/date/apartment that you don't have.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A contribution you'd like to make may feel very, very small indeed. You may even be embarrassed and

therefore tempted to not even bother to do it. But do it anyway. Small gestures are what make your character so remarkable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

The step you've been thinking of taking can be achieved. Look hard at your beliefs about money. The fastest way to improve your income is to seek work that gives you a greater sense of purpose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a fair leader, but your leadership will be challenged.

You'll be dealing with a strong-willed significant other, stepchild or parent. Gain control of your emotions, and keep your focus on the problem at hand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Other people's dreams seem outrageous, but don't laugh — and if anyone else laughs, spring to the dreamer's defense. People who don't have dreams don't have much. By the end of the day, you'll believe in love at first sight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know those questions you've been asking other people? Well, it's time to pose the same questions to yourself. You may just be surprised how smart you can be when talking to an intellectual equal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Keep fun on the to-do list, and don't let it take the bottom slot. In fact, what do you think would happen if you put fun first? You just might wind up enjoying your work so much that you've never been so productive in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you're aiming for should be obvious to everyone around you, and, of course, to yourself. Verbalize your goal. You may have to futz with the wording or the trust of it for a while until it's perfectly clear to everyone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your partner's needs and your own could polarize now. Stay calm. The stars nurture your thought processes and help you tap into your unconscious mind for solutions. Also, a Libra can help you find the compromise.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



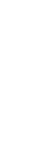
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



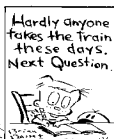
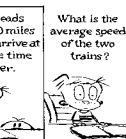
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



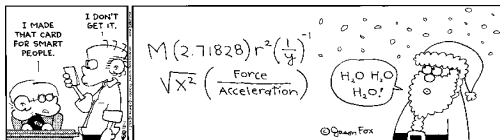
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



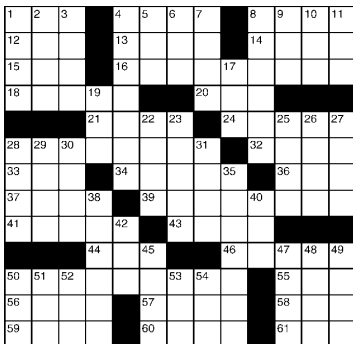
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Vacationing
4 "Take — Train"
8 Cronos
12 One of the gang
13 Gets greedy with
14 Bread spread
15 Oklahoma city
16 Bad thing to be behind
18 Clark's companion
20 Longing
21 Practice pugilism
24 Famous
28 Unfaithful one
32 Expose
33 Fine, to NASA
34 Arias, e.g.
36 Ad —
37 — a-brac
39 Beer buys
41 Daub
43 Blue hue
44 Cattle call
46 Hyper personality
50 Sports-page announcement
55 Stirrup's locale
56 Loud lamentation
57 Domesticated
58 Performance
59 Probability
60 Luminary
61 Reticent
- 2 Gradually disappear
3 Imperfection
4 Ancient Greek poet
5 Polloi predecessor
6 Early bird?
7 Wan
8 Rub elbows (with)
9 Carte lead-in
10 Solidify
11 Fa-la link
17 X rating
19 Practitioner (Suft.)
22 Old Testament prophet
23 Archaeologist's find
25 Bath powder
26 Actor Estrada
- 27 Socialist Eugene
28 Surveillance
29 Dennis Rodman nickname
30 Tom Joad, e.g.
31 Theater name of old
35 Splash everywhere
38 Caravan pack
40 Whatever amount
42 Caviar
45 Makes a decision
47 Pod dwellers
48 Apiece
49 Bohemian
50 Seesaw quorum
51 Swindled
52 Discumber
53 Nosh
54 "I — Camera"

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Down

1 October stone

12-1

CRYPTOQUIP

HVCHJOX LSPCSZXXZ GSDIX
PUZV AJ DVVK HIJZZ
LUPNJOZ. XIJN'OJ AVXI

DOPCK GPZXJQZ
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE REMOVING APPLE CENTERS CONSIDER THEMSELVES A CORE GROUP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equal S

Someone lying in messy mystery

Dear Abby: My name is "Lenny" and I live in Florida. About six weeks ago, my girlfriend, "Jill," and I broke up.

Jill is 20 and I am 41. She was adopted by her parents as an infant.

Jill and her folks moved to Illinois, but we talk on the phone at least three times a week. I proposed marriage, but Jill said she couldn't make the decision without her father's approval. Her mother was all for it; her father was not.

Jill says that when her parents adopted her, her father had a clause in the contract that he had the right to choose the man she was to marry — and it was signed by a judge in the state of Illinois. Is this legal?

Dear Frustrated: No, it's not. Either Jill is lying to you, or

someone is lying to her.

Dear Abby: I have eight siblings. I am the only one who is still single. My brothers and sisters are upstanding members of their communities, happily

married and raising beautiful families.

Until a few years ago, we all got together for the holidays. Now that the children are here — 20 at last count — my sis prefers to spend the holidays in their own homes with their families. We get together a couple of weeks before Christmas to exchange gifts.

I'd love to spend the day with family, and I'm hoping they will see this letter and think of me.

— All Alone in Maryland

Dear All Alone: What if they happen to be too busy to read the column today? Your siblings aren't mind readers, so

tell them what you told me. And if an invitation isn't forthcoming, make plans for the Christmas holiday with close friends or volunteer at a shelter.

Dear Abby: I'm 11 and in sixth grade. I recently caught a girl in my class copying off my paper. When I asked her not to, she denied doing it.

I told the teacher then, and the teacher replied, "She is having trouble with her work and personal problems at home. Just imagine if this math was hard for you."

The girl has ADHD. Should I continue to let this girl copy me?

Dear Student: No, you should not. Because if you do, a girl who is already having trouble with math will never learn how to solve the problems herself.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate.

Dear Abby



Family abuse revelation shocking

Dear Annie: Do you think ostriches are emotionally healthy? I ask because I want to hide my head in a hole.

I came from a family with five adult children. Dad passed away a few years back, and as I write this, Mom has been in the hospital for a month. Her hospitalization has caused an awkward reunification of the siblings.

During a lengthy phone call with my younger sister, she revealed that she and my youngest brother were repeatedly sexually abused by my oldest brother. Although I urged her to seek professional help, I am having difficulty digesting this 40-year-old information.

My relationship with my oldest brother hasn't been good for years.

(He was a Vietnam vet, and I was a war protester.) Still, I always respected and looked up to him. Now, I feel the big brother I once loved is a slum.

I live in another state with a wonderful husband and two great

Annie's Mailbox



children. I want to wash my hands of the lot of my siblings and the dirty family secrets they have kept. My mother, however, wants her family around her. I don't think she is aware of my brother's incestuous behavior, and if she did know, I suspect she put it away somewhere deep in the recesses of her memory.

Should I keep up appearances until my mother passes on (which could be in 10 years or 10 minutes)? This goes against every grain of my being. Should I confront my brother?

— Disillusioned Sister

Dear Sister: If you are 100 percent certain that your sister's accusations are true, you should confront your brother. But don't blame your other siblings for what happened. It is unfair to estrange them all because you are angry with one. And it would be self-serving and hurtful to create a family rift while your mother is hospitalized.

Dear Annie: I would like to comment on your advice to "Freakin' Out in Philly," who resented that her parents left the family business to her brothers. She sounds like a victim of her own making.

If the sisters really want a piece of the business, why don't they act like businesswomen and approach their brothers about investing or becoming partners, instead of harassing their elderly parents about fairness? Parents often base such decisions on who they think would be most likely to carry on the business in the spirit in which it was created. Obviously, the sons are doing a good job if their wives and children are bragging about "living the good life." This woman needs to find a way to respect her parents' decision.

— Wife of an Inheritor

Dear Wife: Your perspective has merit. Thanks for writing. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MEWNO

SQUET

NESING

BOCIXE

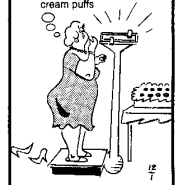
Ans: " " ON

Yesterday's Jumbles: KETCH CRAFT TYCOON RATHER

Answer: What the landlord did when the furnace failed — TOOK THE HEAT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

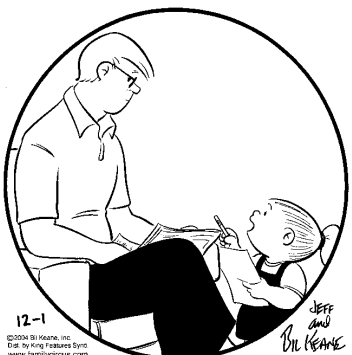
That's it! No more chocolate or cream puffs



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Family Circus



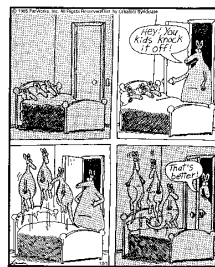
"A, E, I, O and U are vowels and the other letters are continents."



Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



STRIPESS

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4. Decide which day you would like your ad to begin running, and submit with the appropriate payment on or before the deadline listed below. *

MONDAY	DUE NOON THURSDAY	FRIDAY	DUE 4 PM TUESDAY
TUESDAY	DUE 4 PM THURSDAY	SATURDAY	DUE NOON WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY	DUE 4 PM FRIDAY	SUNDAY	DUE 4 PM WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	DUE 4 PM MONDAY		

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Celtics, Rivers earn big victory

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Doc Rivers was cheered by his old fans, then his new team gave him a small measure of revenge.

Rivers' Boston Celtics snapped a four-game losing streak by beating the Orlando Magic 117-101 on Monday night, giving him a win the first time he faced his former team.

The Magic fired Rivers a year ago after four-plus seasons, when the team stumbled to a 1-10 record. Rivers, the NBA's coach of the year in 2001, had a 171-168 record with three trips to the playoffs.

Rivers downplayed any questions of revenge, and deflected the attention to his players.

"Great win for us because we broke the losing streak we were on," Rivers said. "Our guys needed a win like this."

Paul Pierce scored 24 points, leading seven players in double figures, as the Celtics enjoyed their best offensive performance of the season. Marcus Banks added a season-high 20 in a reserve role.

The game was expected to be filled with emotion — with Rivers being the most charismatic coach in franchise history. But by the time the ovation from Rivers' pregame introduction died down, the Celtics had put the Magic away.

"They attack the basket, so we thought if we could get stops and get up and down the court, then we could beat them before they found their defense," Rivers said. "That was something we saw on film that we could take advantage of, but the key was getting stops first."

The Magic missed 23 of their first 32 shots and by the time they steadied, the Celtics were gone. Boston went away by 10 midway through the first quarter, by 20

Roundup

early in the second and the margin reached 27 with 5:37 left before the break.

"The key was, we got back on defense every time and we didn't allow them to have fast-break points," Rivers said.

On the other end of the floor, the Magic played like the squad that got Rivers fired.

Orlando's toothless defense let Boston drive uncontested to the basket, leading to 11 dunks and layups in the first quarter.

Pierce's fast-break follow slam capped a 26-8 run for a 15-point lead with 3:44 left in the period.

"I never felt like we had control of the game, I never felt like we had momentum going our way at all," said Orlando coach Johnny Davis, who replaced Rivers. "It started pretty much from the opening tip right on through."

Then, Boston began sinking almost every shot, no matter how off-balance, wild or well defended. Banks' flailing layup with 8:12 to go before the break was the Celtics' 22nd field goal in 33 attempts, and put them up 49-29.

For the Magic, who had their worst loss of the season, Hedo Turkoglu scored 17 points. Kevin Carter had his first double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds, both season bests, while Dwight Howard had his fourth with 10 and 10.

Steve Francis and Grant Hill, who entered combining for better than 40 points, collectively shot 10-for-30 for 25.

Celtics 94, Cavaliers 82: At Los Angeles, Elton Brand had a season-high 30 points and six assists. Bobby Simmons scored 21 of his 17 points in the fourth



Celtics guard Ricky Davis drives practically unabated to the basket against the Magic during the fourth quarter in Orlando on Monday.

quarter, and the Clippers completed the second-best November in franchise history.

By winning their fourth straight game, the Clippers (9-6) have their best record in the month since the 1974-75 team, playing in Buffalo, went 12-4. The only other times the Clippers have had a winning record in November were in 1977 (8-6) and 1992 (7-6).

LeBron James led the Cavaliers with 22 points, seven rebounds, five assists and six steals — equaling his career high. The loss was just the second in 11 games for the Cavaliers (9-5),

who were shooting for their first 10-win November since 1977.

Nuggets 76, Hornets 67: Earl Boykins scored 22 points to help the Nuggets overcome the absence of Carmelo Anthony and defeat the Hornets at home.

The Nuggets won for the sixth time in seven games, but struggled mightily against the Hornets, who came into the final stop of a five-game road trip with the NBA's worst record and without Jamal Magloire, L.A. Clippers guard Rodney Rogers and Jamal Mashburn.

Lee Nailson scored 16 points for the Hornets.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	11	3	.786	0
Philadelphia	6	7	.462	12
Boston	11	3	.786	0
New Jersey	9	5	.643	4
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	10	5	.667	1
Orlando	8	7	.538	3
Washington	7	8	.462	11
Charlotte	2	13	.154	19
Atlanta	2	13	.154	19
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	9	5	.643	1
Cleveland	9	5	.643	1
Pittsburgh	8	6	.569	3
Milwaukee	6	8	.431	10
Chicago	1	10	.091	19
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	13	3	.786	0
Dallas	10	6	.619	11
Houston	6	9	.406	19
Memphis	5	10	.333	20
New Orleans	1	17	.077	29
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	9	5	.643	1
Minnesota	8	6	.569	4
Denver	5	9	.357	11
Utah	6	8	.431	10
Portland	4	9	.308	16
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	11	2	.846	0
Sacramento	7	6	.538	7
L.A. Clippers	9	6	.600	3
L.A. Lakers	8	7	.538	4
Golden State	1	21	.231	18

Monday's games

Boston 17, Orlando 67
Denver 76, New Orleans 67
L.A. Clippers 94, Cleveland 82
Toronto 49, Miami 49

New York at Atlanta
Sacramento at New Jersey
Charlotte at New York
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee
Detroit at Houston
Phoenix at Dallas
Philadelphia at Utah
Seattle at Portland

Tuesday's games

Memphis at Washington
Toronto at Orlando
Milwaukee at New York
Sacramento at Cleveland
L.A. Lakers at Chicago
Phoenix at Dallas
Indiana at New York
L.A. Clippers at Detroit

Wednesday's games

Houston at Denver
Cleveland at Dallas

Monday

Celtics 117, Magic 101
BOSTON — Magic 59-0-10, Celtics 7-11
2-0, Orlando 3-12-2, Boston 11-3-1, Miami 1-12-1, Washington 1-12-1, New York 11-3-1, Philadelphia 6-7-1, Charlotte 2-13-1, Atlanta 2-13-1, Detroit 8-6-1, Cleveland 7-8-1, Indiana 9-5-1, Chicago 6-8-1, Milwaukee 6-8-1, Houston 6-9-1, Dallas 7-7-1, Phoenix 9-5-1, Seattle 9-5-1, Portland 4-9-1, Utah 6-8-1, Sacramento 7-6-1, L.A. Clippers 9-6-1, L.A. Lakers 8-7-1, Golden State 1-21-1.

Orlando 25 25 33 21-181
Three-point Goals—Boston 1-9, Bulls 1-2, R. Davis 0-1, Allen 0-1, Pierce 0-2, LaFrentz 0-3, Orlando 1-12, Toronto 1-6, Nelson 0-1, Garrihy 0-2, Francis 0-3, fouled out—Francis, Orlando—Boston 34, Detroit 31, Orlando 62 (Cato 12), Assist—Boston 15 (Payton 5), Three Second, Orlando coach James Cato, Francis, Flagrant foul—Kasun, A-12,224 (17-2-2).

Nuggets 76, Hornets 67

NEW ORLEANS — Hornets 4-0-6, Dallas 7-15-2, Brown 4-0-3-11, Wesley 2-9-0
2-0, Armstrong 2-12-2, Houston 4-11-1, Phoenix 1-0-0-0, Atlanta 2-12-1, Cleveland 7-8-1, Detroit 8-6-1, Indiana 9-5-1, Chicago 6-8-1, Milwaukee 6-8-1, Houston 6-9-1, Dallas 7-7-1, Phoenix 9-5-1, Seattle 9-5-1, Portland 4-9-1, Utah 6-8-1, Sacramento 7-6-1, L.A. Clippers 9-6-1, L.A. Lakers 8-7-1, Golden State 1-21-1.

Three-point Goals—New Orleans 2-9, Hornets 1-4, Brown 0-0-0, Armstrong 0-0-0, Wesley 0-0-0, Houston 0-0-0, Atlanta 0-0-0, Cleveland 0-0-0, Detroit 0-0-0, Indiana 0-0-0, Chicago 0-0-0, Milwaukee 0-0-0, Houston 0-0-0, Dallas 0-0-0, Phoenix 0-0-0, Seattle 0-0-0, Portland 0-0-0, Utah 0-0-0, Sacramento 0-0-0, L.A. Clippers 0-0-0, L.A. Lakers 0-0-0, Golden State 0-0-0.

Clippers 94, Cavaliers 82

CLEVELAND — James 9-19 4-5 12, Gooden 14 0-2, Iguassu 7 14 2-4 16, Neville 1-3 0-0 0-0, Brown 2-10 0-0 0-0, James 2-2 0-0 0-0, Miller 4-7 3-11, Snow 2-0-0-4, Wagner 4-11-0-0, Cleveland 1-12-2, Boston 11-3-1, Orlando 62 (Cato 12), Assist—Boston 15 (Payton 5), Three Second, Orlando coach James Cato, Francis, Flagrant foul—Kasun, A-12,224 (17-2-2).

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Police identify fan who threw chair during brawl

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Police believe they know the identity of the man who threw a chair in a brawl between players and fans during the Indiana-Detroit game on Nov. 19.

Police did not identify the man Monday, though they said he is a 35-year-old Pistons season-ticket holder. He has not been interviewed and is not in custody, Police Lt. James Manning said. Police have met with the man's attorney.

The lawyer, Kenneth Karasick, did not immediately respond to a telephone message seeking comment.

The fight among spectators and players broke out near the end of the game after an on-court dispute over a foul. A fan hurled a drink at Indiana's Ron Artest, who then charged into the stands and began beating a man who he thought had done it.

Other players and fans soon joined the brawl.

Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyba was told the man who threw the chair, which hit

NBA briefs

several people including a police officer, could be charged with felony assault.

Other participants could be charged with misdemeanor assault and battery.

Detroit television stations repeatedly broadcast video footage of the fight that showed the man police said threw the chair in the hopes that someone would come forward with his identity.

Separately, Manning said Auburn Hills detectives were informed by a lawyer for the Pacers that none of the players would participate in police interviews.

Magloire out three months

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans center Jamaal Magloire will be out up to three months with a dislocated right finger.

Magloire was injured in the fourth quarter of the Hornets' 95-86 loss at Phoenix on Friday and flew back to New Orleans for treatment. He will not need surgery.

The team said Monday that Magloire's finger would be in a splint for eight weeks and then he will rehab for four weeks.

Magloire, an Eastern Conference All-Star, has averaged 14 points and nine rebounds per game in 11 games this season.

Celtics' West out indefinitely

ORLANDO, Fla. — Boston guard Delonte West is out indefinitely after breaking his right hand in the second quarter of Boston's 106-104 loss at Miami on Sunday night. It was only the rookie's second game since coming out of the injured list. He broke his right thumb in the preseason.

In limited action, West had seven points, four assists and three rebounds.

Kirienko out with knee injury

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirienko will be sidelined at least the next two weeks with a sprained ligament in his right knee.

Kirienko injured his medial collateral ligament on Saturday night in a collision with Beno Udrih during Utah's 109-76 loss

to the San Antonio Spurs. He's expected to go on the injured list Tuesday, Jazz spokeswoman Cindy Edman said.

Kirienko would miss at least five games on the injured list, but could be out longer if the sprain in his MCL doesn't heal. Jazz trainer Gary Briggs said an MRI taken Sunday showed the sprain, but not a complete rupture of the ligament.

Nelson to let Johnson coach

DALLAS — Mavericks coach Don Nelson will step aside for Tuesday night's game against San Antonio and let his top assistant Avery Johnson run the team.

Nelson will still be on the bench against the Spurs, but will leave it to Johnson to make decisions.

"I'll give him my opinion, and he'll have to make the call," Nelson said. "Just like when he gives me his opinion, I reject some of them, he can reject mine."

Nelson would like Johnson to be his eventual successor, and plans to let him coach five or six games this season. Nelson is in his eighth season in Dallas, and is signed through next season.

Clemson, S. Carolina players suspended

BY JACOB JORDAN

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Six Clemson players and six South Carolina players were suspended one game by their conferences Monday for brawling during a game between the in-state rivals Nov. 20.

The Atlantic Coast Conference and Southeastern Conference handed down the punishment.

"The actions of these suspended student-athletes violate the letter and spirit of the SEC and NCAA rules and regulations of sportsmanlike conduct," SEC commissioner Mike Slive said. "These suspensions are intended to send a clear and unequivocal message to all student-athletes in the Southeastern Conference that this conduct will not be tolerated now or in the future."

Both schools declined bowl invitations last week as punishment for their teams.

Clemson's Duane Coleman, Nathan Bennett, Brandon Cannon, Roman Fry, Mat-

rice Nelson and Anthony Waters were suspended. Four other Clemson players will receive letters of reprimand: Cory Groover, Tommy Sharpe, Kent Watkins and Bobby Williamson.

It will be up to the team to decide when the players will serve their suspensions. The Tigers open the season against Texas A&M on Sept. 3.

"There is no justification for the allegations that took place," Clemson coach Tommy Bowden said in his first public comments since the schools declined bowl bids. "I am disappointed in the actions of some of our players, but 90 percent of them either stayed out of it or tried to break it up."

The ACC also said senior tailback Yusuf Kelley, seen kicking a South Carolina player who lay face-down with his helmet off, would have been suspended but does not have any eligibility remaining.

ACC commissioner John Swofford commended Clemson for its immediate action

last week. The conference said it did a thorough review of video footage before handing out the suspensions.

"The ACC is compelled to take this action because of the nature and seriousness of the situation," Swofford said. "What took place in the South Carolina-Clemson game has no place in college football or any other sporting event."

For South Carolina, Decatur Turnman, Jermaine Sims, Freddy Saint-Prix, Woods Telford, Moe Thompson and Charles Sims must sit out the season-opener against Central Florida on Sept. 3.

The SEC also said three other players — Matthew Thomas, Taqiy Muhammad and Jamacia Jackson — would have been suspended if they had any eligibility remaining.

South Carolina's Thompson said Monday night the team learned of the discipline at a meeting with new coach Steve Spurrier.

"I try not to look back at it because it's

very frustrating," said Thompson, a defensive end.

Spurrier said he didn't think he'd tack on additional penalties for the Gamecocks involved.

The brawl broke out about six minutes left in the game as it started when Tigers defensive lineman Bobby Williamson took down South Carolina quarterback Syvelle Newton and appeared to linger too long on top of him.

Gamecock offensive lineman Chris White came to Newton's defense, and eventually both sidelines cleared.

South Carolina coach Lou Holtz, in his last game after 33 seasons, and Bowden tried to break up the brawl, but the fight stretched nearly 60 yards along the field.

The suspended Clemson players issued a collective statement.

"We realize there is no place for fighting in college athletics and we accept the suspensions," the statement said. "We apologize to any Clemson fans who see college football fan who was embarrassed by what happened."

Baseball's free agents get back to business

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Damian Miller's \$8.75 million, three-year contract was finalized by the Milwaukee Brewers and Doug Mirabeli became the first of Boston's 16 free agents to re-sign, agreeing to a \$3 million, two-year deal Monday.

As the free-agent market resumed following the Thanksgiving weekend break, Gary Bennett was the third catcher to sign off on a deal, agreeing to a \$750,000, one-year contract with the soon-to-be Washington Nationals.

And the New York Yankees neared agreement on a contract with backup catcher John Flaherty.

Left-handed pitcher Denny Reyes agreed to a \$550,000, one-year contract with the San Diego Padres, who last week reached an agreement with right-hander Rudy Seaneer for the same amount.

While the top and middle of the market awaits the Dec. 7 deadline for teams to offer salary arbitration to their former players who became free agents, players with lower profiles are signing.

Miller's deal was agreed to last Tuesday, and he took a physical the following day. But the Brewers put off completing the agreement because they couldn't find any of their team physicians to read the MRI exam results ahead of the holiday weekend.

"We were getting all the information together to a level we feel comfortable with and we feel fine about it now," general manager Doug Mientkiewicz said. "It was just due diligence. We had to get a second opinion on some things."

Miller gets \$3.25 million in each of the next two seasons, and Milwaukee has a \$7.5 million option for 2007. If the Brewers decline it, Miller would get a \$2.25 million player option and the

chance, if he exercises it, to earn \$750,000 more in performance bonuses.

Miller, 35, grew up in La Crosse. He hit 272 with nine homers and a career-high 58 RBIs in 110 games for Oakland last season, including 224 with runners in scoring position and 412 with the bases loaded.

Mirabeli will earn a \$200,000 signing bonus and \$1.4 million in each of the next two seasons under his contract with the World Series champions. Mirabeli made \$825,000 last season, when he batted 281 with nine homers and 20 RBIs in 75 games for Milwaukee.

Bennett, 32, fulfills the need for a backup to Brian Schneider on the Expos, who will become the Nationals once baseball owners approve the proposed move. Bennett hit 224 with three home runs and 20 RBIs in 75 games for Milwaukee last year. He's a career 247 hitter in nine seasons with Philadelphia, the New York Mets, Colorado, San Diego and Milwaukee.

Bennett's best season came with San Diego in 2003, when he had 42 RBIs in 96 games.

Reyes was 4-8 with a 4.75 ERA in 40 games in 2003. He made 127 starts last season, including 12 starts.

Flaherty hit 252 in 127 at-bats but was the key to several New York wins, hitting six homers and driving in 16 runs. He made \$775,000 and his new deal was likely to be for a salary between that and \$1 million.

Second baseman Miguel Cairo, left-hander represented by agent Alan Nervo, also hopes to re-sign with the Yankees.

"We're in the process of exchanging ideas. With Flaherty, we've got only a couple of items left," Nervo said. "It's nothing more than with John, we started earlier."

Cycling's Hamilton gets fired

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Olympic gold medalist Tyler Hamilton's pro cycling team fired him after he failed doping tests, the sport's world governing body said Tuesday.

The International Cycling Union (UCI), based in Aigle, Switzerland, said the Phonak team told it the American rider's contract was terminated last week.

Phonak was refused a racing license Tuesday by the UCI, prohibiting it from competing in the Tour de France and other elite events. Phonak told UCI about Hamilton's status while the group was considering whether to renew the license.

Phonak team officials did not immediately return calls, and Hamilton could not immediately be reached for comment.

In a posting on his Web site last Thursday, he didn't mention losing his spot with Phonak. His contract was scheduled to expire in December 2005.

Hamilton, a native of Marblehead, Mass., first tested positive for blood doping after winning the time trial at the Athens Olympics in August. But the case was dropped after his backup sample was frozen, leaving too few red blood cells to analyze.

Hamilton tested positive again for an illegal blood transfusion at the Spanish Vuelta in September, with both samples confirming the result. He faces a possible two-year ban in that case.

Hamilton insists he is innocent and has vowed to clear his name, while Phonak has questioned the testing system used to detect blood doping.

UCI did not give its reasons for refusing four-year licenses to Phonak and two other teams — France's AG2R and Mr. Bookmaker's Palmaris of Belgium. All teams can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

U.S. opens final round of World Cup qualifying at Trinidad

ZURICH, Switzerland — The United States opens the final round of 2006 World Cup qualifying with games at Trinidad and Tobago in February and at Mexico in March.

The Americans, trying to reach their fifth consecutive World Cup, close out the 10-game final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region in October at home against Panama.

The top three teams in the six-nation group qualifying for the 12-country field for the World Cup tournament in Germany. The fourth-place team will play the No. 5 nation in Asia in a home-and-home playoff for another berth.

The United States, which won its four-nation semifinal group, opens the last round of qualifying at Trinidad and Tobago on Feb. 9, according to the draw conducted Tuesday by FIFA, soccer's governing body.

Sports briefs

Bradley charged with disorderly conduct

COPLEY, Ohio — Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Milton Bradley is in trouble again, this time charged with disorderly conduct after interfering with a traffic stop near Akron.

Bradley, known for an inability to control his temper, was charged after police stopped a woman for weaving on Thursday. Police say Bradley, who was driving another car ahead of the woman, stopped on an exit ramp and walked on the side of the highway until he reached the traffic stop.

"He started screaming to the officer something to the effect of, 'Why are you stopping my friend?'" Copple Township Police Chief Michael Meri said Monday. "The officer had to tell him several times to return to his vehicle, and he refused to do so."

At one point, Meri said, Bradley put his hands behind his back and "said 'go ahead and arrest me.'" Meri said.

The officer did, and charged Bradley with the fourth-degree misdemeanor. He was not held but was issued a summons to appear Friday in Barberton Municipal Court. If convicted, Bradley could be sentenced from no jail time up to 30 days, and a maximum fine of \$250.

The woman, identified only as a friend of Bradley's, was not charged and allowed to leave, Meri said.

NHL commissioner reiterates league's stand against luxury tax

EDMONTON, Alberta — NHL commissioner Gary Bettman reiterated the league's position that it won't consider the players' proposed luxury tax. "They claim that will fix our problems, I'm here to tell you today . . . that a luxury tax will not work and it will create a potential for future disaster in the NHL," Bettman said Tuesday at an Edmonton Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

Bettman also reiterated that the owners don't have a drop-dead date for when they would have to pull the plug on the 2004-05 season.

The NHL and NHLPA haven't had a formal collective bargaining session since Sept. 9 in Toronto, when the league officially rejected the union's luxury tax-based proposal.

The league has said it doesn't believe in a luxury tax because it doesn't guarantee cost certainty.

Phelps' trial set for Dec. 29

SALISBURY, Md. — Michael Phelps' drunken driving trial was set for Dec. 29.

Phelps, 19, the Olympic swimming champion, was stopped by a state trooper on Nov. 4 for running a stop sign in Salisbury.

Among charges against Phelps were driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while impaired.

Bowl glance

Bowl games

Tuesday, Dec. 14	New Orleans Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
North Texas (7-4) vs. Southern Miss. (6-4)		
Tuesday, Dec. 21	Chang's Sports Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
At Orlando, Fla.		
ACC vs. Big 12		
Wednesday, Dec. 22	GMAC Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
Mobile, Ala.		
Memphis (9-3) vs. MAC w/ WAC		
Tuesday, Dec. 23	Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
At Las Vegas		
Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Pac-10		
MWC No. 2 vs. Pac-10 No. 4/5		
Friday, Dec. 24	Hawaii Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
UAB (7-4) vs. MAC		
Monday, Dec. 27	MPC Computers Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
At Boise, Idaho		
WAC vs. ACC No. 5		
Motor City Bowl		
At Pontiac, Mich.		
MAC vs. Big 10		
Tuesday, Dec. 28	Independence Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
At Shreveport, La.		
Big 12 vs. SEC		
Wednesday, Dec. 29	Houston Bowl	Payoff: \$1.1 million
Pac-10 No. 4 vs. Notre Dame (6-5)		
Thursday, Dec. 30	Alamo Bowl	Payoff: \$1.1 million
At San Antonio		
Ohio State (10-1) vs. Big 12 No. 4		
Continental Tire Bowl		
At Nashville, Tenn.		
Payoff: \$750,000		
Big East No. 4 vs. North Carolina (5-5)		
Emerald Bowl		
At San Francisco		
MWC No. 3 vs. SEC No. 2		
Friday, Dec. 31	Music City Bowl	Payoff: \$2 million
At Nashville, Tenn.		
SEC vs. Minnesota (5-5)		
San Bowl		
At El Paso, Texas		
Payoff: \$1.5 million		
Purdue (4-7) vs. Pac-10 No. 5		
Liberty Bowl		
At Memphis, Tenn.		
Payoff: \$1.5 million		
MWC champion or TBA at Louisville (9-1)		
Peach Bowl		
Payoff: \$2.2 million		
ACC No. 3 vs. SEC No. 1		
Saturday, Jan. 1	Cotton Bowl	Payoff: \$1.4 million
At Dallas		
SEC vs. Big 12 No. 2		
Outback Bowl		
At Tampa, Fla.		
Payoff: \$2.5 million		
Wisconsin (9-2) vs. SEC No. 6		
Gator Bowl		
At Jacksonville, Fla.		
Payoff: \$1.6 million		
ACC No. 2 vs. West Virginia (5-3)		
Capital One Bowl		
At Orlando, Fla.		
Payoff: \$1.87 million		
Iowa (9-2) vs. SEC		
Rose Bowl		
At Pasadena, Calif.		
Payoff: \$1.4 million		
Michigan (9-2) vs. Pac-10 champion or TBA		
Fiesta Bowl		
At Tempe, Ariz.		
Payoff: \$1.14 million		
BCS vs. BCS		
Monday, Jan. 3	Sugar Bowl	Payoff: \$1.4 million
At New Orleans		
BCS vs. BCS		
Tuesday, Jan. 4	Orange Bowl	Payoff: \$1.14 million
BCS I vs. BCS2		

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ACC title game has Big East flavor

Va. Tech visits longtime rival Miami for berth in Sugar Bowl

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — After years of battling for supremacy in the Big East, Miami and Virginia Tech will do the same in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

In their first meeting as ACC rivals, the Hokies and Hurricanes will play Saturday with a conference title and Bowl Championship Series bid on the line.

No. 10 Virginia Tech (9-2, 6-1) will claim the outright ACC title if it beats Miami for the second straight year; the Hokies eased past the Hurricanes 31-7 last year in Blacksburg, Va.

If No. 9 Miami (8-2, 5-2) wins, it'll finish in a three-way tie atop the league with the Hokies and Florida State — which would have at least a share of the ACC title for the 12th year in 13 years. The Seminoles are headed to the Gator Bowl to play West Virginia. Miami, though, would be cer-



Virginia Tech's Josh Hyman (19) fends off Virginia's Jermaine Hardy (36) during the Hokies' 24-10 victory Saturday at Blacksburg.

tain to end the year as the conference's highest-ranked team in the BCS standings, winning the league's tiebreaker.

"It's pretty cool that it comes down to us," Miami quarterback Brock Berlin said. "We were at the ACC meetings and everybody was saying 'You guys are the new guys, you guys don't know if you can play with us.' Well, we kind of showed everybody that we can

play in this league and we were meant to be here. It's a credit to both universities."

Miami and Virginia Tech were unquestionably the Big East's two best football drawing cards, and quickly established themselves as part of the ACC's highest level.

Miami (53) and Virginia Tech (three) won nine Big East football titles in 12 years. The teams ranked 1-2 in winning percentage

among Big East schools, and were the only members of that conference to play for the national title; Miami had championship years in 1991 and 2001; Virginia Tech lost the 1999 championship game to Florida State.

Neither will play in the BCS title game this year, but winning an ACC crown would be a nifty consolation prize.

"I'm glad that we've had the success that we've had and demonstrated that we're going to be a good member for the ACC," Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer said. "I'm pleased about that. And I think the ACC is a great, great league. It just so happens that Miami and us are the two this time around at the very end."

Miami had last week off; Virginia Tech has 24-10 on Saturday. Miami also had a bye last year before the showdown with the Hokies, and Beamer's team decisively beat them.

Still, Beamer wouldn't have necessarily minded a little more rest between the Virginia and Miami matchups.

"This week, I wish it was like a championship game and we might have two weeks to get ready for it," Beamer said. "That'd certainly be helpful to us. It is what it is, so we've got to prepare fast and get ready to play a tremendously important football game."

BCS shutdown has Pitt feeling festive

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Don't let the Pitt Panthers' record be a perfect example of what's wrong with the BCS system.

Consecutive wins over ranked-at-the-time Notre Dame and West Virginia placed the Panthers (7-3) to No. 19, and they will get the Big East Conference's automatic BCS bowl if they beat South Florida (4-6) in Tampa on Saturday.

Three-loss teams with no victories over Top 15 opponents aren't supposed to be in the running for one of the BCS' \$14 million to \$17 million paydays, especially when quality teams such as No. 6 Texas (10-1) and No. 7 Louisville (9-1) are being left out.

Just don't ask the Panthers to apologize for winning, especially when they're doing so with a lineup that includes just six seniors — a year after they went 8-5 with a dead, experienced team led by Heisman Trophy runner Larry Fitzgerald.

When Pitt was 2-2 and apparently going no-

where, Harris said he felt the Panthers had the makings of being special. But, realistically, he probably didn't think a team that could barely beat Division I-AA Furman or Big East tailender Temple might wind up playing No. 5 Utah in the Fiesta Bowl — currently, the Panthers' most likely bowl matchup.

"I'm one of those guys who feels strongly about what we do, almost to a fault," Harris said Monday. "Our challenge was to get them to believe, and to execute."

Harris also took an apparent shot at those who felt the Panthers failed to recruit well in recent years, saying they are winning with players "nobody knew about or believed in except for our staff."

If nothing else, whatever bowl series for the Panthers will be getting one of college football's more exciting teams. Sophomore quarterback Tyler Palko has engineered five comeback victories in the fourth quarter or overtime, a remarkable percentage for a player who has started only 10 college games.

An 8-3 regular season would also be the

school's best since coach Mike Gottfried's second Pitt team went 8-3 in 1987 before losing to Texas in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

"You live to play in big games, big-money games and we as a team have a chance to do something special. A win puts us at 8-3 — a record [like when] the big guys played here," Palko said, a reference to the early 1980s teams led by Dan Marino.

Palko promised the Panthers won't take their foot off the accelerator against South Florida, which upset Pitt 35-26 on Sept. 8, 2001, for the Bulls' first victory against an established Division I-AA program. The upset loss was one of the biggest in Pitt's history, and ranks as perhaps the low mark of Harris' eight seasons at the school.

The Panthers will probably get the Big East's BCS bid over Syracuse (6-5) even if they lose, but neither Harris nor Palko wants to hear that.

"We need to take care of business. We're not going to hold anything back," Palko said. "This is going to be an intense week. We don't have to rely on anyone else, we don't want to have to wait around to figure it out."

Peach Bowl officials want to lure the Gators

Bowl game briefs

the Tigers and Tennessee. No. 20 Florida (7-4) is expected to play the loser of Saturday's Miami-Virginia Tech game. The winner will get the Atlantic Coast Conference Series.

ference's automatic bid to the Bowl Championship Series.

Week 3 was fired last month but agreed to finish his third season. Florida closed with three straight victories under its lame-duck coach, including a road victory over Florida State, the Gators' first in Tallahassee since 1986.

Zook hasn't said whether he will coach in a bowl game.

Alabama (6-5) is expected to play in the

Music City Bowl.

The Gator Bowl has the second pick among ACC schools and planned to invite Florida on Tuesday. The Seminoles will meet West Virginia.

GA. Tech heading to Champs Sports Bowl
Atlanta — Georgia Tech finally will play in a bowl that's not too far from home.

After being sent out West for three straight years, the Yellow Jackets (6-5) formally accepted an invitation to the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, Fla., on Tuesday.

The Champs Sports Bowl, formerly known as the Tangerine, will match Georgia Tech against a team from the Big 12.

No. 2 Kansas doesn't fall into same trap vs. Nevada

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas got a big lead in a flurry and made sure Nevada couldn't repeat last year's upset.

Wayne Simien had 14 points and 10 rebounds for his third double in as many games, and the second-ranked Jayhawks opened with a 19-4 run Monday night on the way to an 85-52 victory.

Men's Top 25 roundup

Kansas (3-0) led 43-16 at halftime and was up by as many as 39 points.

"I thought our defense was pretty good," Jayhawks coach Bill Self said. "I thought the whole team played sluggish in the second half, which is to be expected. We still have to learn to put our foot on the throat."

Nevada beat then-No. 6 Kansas 75-61 last year, an early highlight in a season in which the Wolf Pack went on to win the Western Athletic Conference, reach the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament and finish 25-9.

"Coach brought the old clips when they smacked us pretty good and the fans stormed the court," Simien said. "He did it to motivate us. I think it did that."

Nick Fazekas, the Wolf Pack's leading scorer with a 23.3 average, was harassed by Christian Moody into 1-for-9 shooting in the first half and finished with 17 points.

"We are just young," first-year Nevada coach Mark Fox said.

"We couldn't execute our offense against their pressure defense."

Fox was promoted to replace Trent Johnson, who took over the Stanford program.

No. 6 Oklahoma State 76, SMU 57: John Lucas scored 24 points to lead the Cowboys (4-0) as coach Eddie Sutton won for the 759th time, tying him for eighth place in the Division I career list with Ed Diddle.

Lucas scored 11 points as visiting Oklahoma State took control in the first half with a 17-4 run.



Kansas forward Wayne Simien (23) looks for the basket after getting past Nevada forward Kevin Pinkney (21) during the first half at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan., on Monday, Kansas won 85-52.

Patrick Simpson had 20 points for SMU (2-1), which lost for the first time under coach Jimmy Tubbs.

No. 16 N.C. State 60, Purdue 53: Julius Hodge had 22 points, eight rebounds and five assists to lead the Wolfpack to the home win on the opening night of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

Ilian Ertimirov had 12 points for the Wolfpack (5-0), who won their first four games by an average of 37 points.

Carl Landry had 18 points for Purdue (1-3), which in coach Gene Keady's farewell season is

off to its worst start since 1962-63.

No. 18 Texas 86, Coppin 51: Freshman Daniel Gibson scored 17 points for the Longhorns (4-1), who had 16

three-pointers, two short of the school record. Texas had nine threes in taking a 42-29 halftime lead.

Darryl Proctor had 11 points for the visiting Eagles (0-3).

At least four Longhorns have reached double figures in all five games. Against the Eagles, it was Gibson, Kenny Taylor (14), Kenton Paulino (13) and Jason Klotz (11).

BY JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

Virginia moved into The Associated Press' men's college basketball Top 25 Monday, giving the Atlantic Coast Conference a record-tying seven teams in the poll.

Wake Forest extended its lead at No. 1, the Cavaliers were tied at No. 4, and there were five other conference schools in between, matching the feat accomplished twice by the Big Ten and once by the ACC.

The Demon Deacons (5-0) used their preseason NTU championship to pull away from No. 2 Kansas (2-0). Wake Forest had 40 first-place votes and 1,737 points from the national media panel, while the Jayhawks were No. 1 on 18 ballots and had 1,678 points.

Last week, Wake Forest received fewer first-place votes, one fewer than Kansas, and had 19 more points.

The other ranked ACC teams were No. 4 Georgia Tech, No. 9 North Carolina, No. 10 Duke, No. 12 Maryland and No. 16 North Carolina State.

The Big Ten had seven teams ranked for one week in January 1993, and for four weeks in January and February 1999. The ACC did it for two weeks in December 1997.

No. 3 Syracuse and Georgia Tech switched places from last week.

The Orange (5-0) had four first-place votes, while Georgia Tech (3-0), which beat Illinois-Chicago 60-59 and Arkansas-Little Rock 79-54, was No. 1 on seven ballots.

Illinois, Oklahoma State, Connecticut and Kentucky held steady five through eight from last week. Illinois got one first-place vote, Oklahoma State had two.

North Carolina, which won the Maui Invitational, moved up from 11th, while Duke dropped one spot.

Michigan State was 11th, followed by Maryland, Pittsburgh, Washington, Mississippi State, North Carolina State, Louisville, Texas, Florida and Notre Dame.

Last year, five ranked teams were Arizona, Alabama, Iowa, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Virginia (4-0) beat then-No. 11 Arizona 78-60 on Nov. 21 and de-

Power-packed conferences

Conference with the most teams ranked in the AP men's college basketball poll.

Nov. 29, 2004 — ACC: No. 1 Wake Forest; No. 4 Georgia Tech; No. 9 North Carolina; No. 10 Duke; No. 12 Maryland; No. 16 North Carolina State; No. 24 Virginia.

Feb. 8, 1997 — Big Ten: No. 5 Michigan State; No. 13 Ohio State; No. 15 Wisconsin; No. 17 Indiana; No. 19 Iowa; No. 21 Purdue; No. 22 Minnesota.

Feb. 1, 1999 — Big Ten: No. 8 Michigan State; No. 11 Wisconsin; No. 14 Iowa; No. 15 Ohio State; No. 18 Purdue and Minnesota; No. 21 Indiana.

Jan. 25, 1999 — Big Ten: No. 8 Michigan State; No. 12 Wisconsin; No. 14 Purdue; No. 15 Ohio State; No. 16 Iowa; No. 19 Minnesota; No. 20 Indiana.

Jan. 14, 1998 — Big Ten: No. 12 Iowa; No. 13 Purdue; No. 14 Michigan State; No. 17 Wisconsin; No. 19 Minnesota; No. 21 Ohio State; No. 23 Indiana.

Dec. 8, 1997 — ACC: No. 1 Duke; No. 2 North Carolina; No. 18 Florida State; No. 21 Clemson; No. 24 Maryland; No. 24 Georgia Tech; No. 25 Wake Forest.

Dec. 1, 1997 — ACC: No. 1 Duke; No. 3 North Carolina; No. 17 Clemson; No. 19 Virginia State; No. 22 Virginia Tech; No. 23 Maryland; No. 24 Wake Forest.

Jan. 15, 1997 — Big Ten: No. 2 Michigan; No. 6 Indiana; No. 13 Iowa; No. 17 Purdue; No. 18 Ohio State; No. 22 Ohio State; No. 23 Michigan State.

feated Appalachian State and Richmond this week. The Cavaliers were last ranked in December 2002.

Iowa (3-1) moved in at No. 23 off an impressive Maui Invitational. The Hawkeyes, who were ranked for one week in December 2003, played three Top 15 teams in Hawaii, beating Louisville and Texas before losing to North Carolina in the championship game.

Gonzaga and Memphis dropped out of the Top 25.

The Bulldogs (3-1) lost 89-72 to Illinois, ending a run of 22 consecutive poll appearances. Gonzaga was ranked every week last season, reaching a school-best No. 3 in the last poll of the season.

Memphis (4-2) lost 84-61 to Maryland in the Hall of Fame Tip-off Classic. The Tigers, who were ranked at the end of last season, also lost to Syracuse in the final of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Washington used its championship win in the Great Alaska Shootout to have the week's biggest jump. The Huskies, who beat Alabama 70-6 in the title game, moved from No. 22 to 14.

The biggest drop of the week was shared by Louisville and Wisconsin. The Cardinals fell from 12th to 17th after finishing fifth at Maui. Wisconsin dropping from 20th to 25th following a 75-61 loss at Pepperdine.

Coach's Title IX case goes before U.S. Supreme Court

BY HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A landmark gender equity law should protect people who report complaints of discrimination, the Supreme Court was told Tuesday as it heard arguments in the case of an Alabama coach fired when he protested the unequal treatment of his girls' high school basketball team.

"This is vital to promoting the purposes of the act," said government attorney Lawrence H. Garstein, referring to the Title IX law best known for promoting women's athletics.

The Bush administration is supporting the position of the coach, Roderick Jackson, who lost his job in 2001 after repeatedly asking the Birmingham Board of Education to provide his team a regulation-size gym with basketball rims that weren't bent — just like the boys' team had.

Jackson then sued to get his job back permanently along with lost wages under the Title IX law.

At issue is whether Congress intended to allow lawsuits by those who complain of gender bias — even if they are not direct victims — when it passed the 1972 law barring discrimination in any edu-

cational program receiving federal funds.

Justices appeared divided along ideological lines, with Ruth Bader Ginsburg and other liberal members expressing concern that barring suits like Jackson's would deter discrimination complaints.

Justice Antonin Scalia and his more conservative colleagues suggested Congress never intended that.

Kenneth L. Thomas, a lawyer representing the Birmingham school board, argued that the word "retaliation" is never mentioned in the statute. To allow whistleblowers, regardless of

their sex, to sue would open school districts to a wave of lawsuits that lawmakers never intended.

"Don't we have to consider congressional intent?" he asked.

Marcia Greenberger, Jackson's attorney, said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that he was trying to protect the rights of the girls' equal treatment with boys and should not have been punished for speaking out.

"What's at stake in this case — which affects everyone around the country in the areas of athletics and in every type of educational arena — is, can somebody try to enforce Title IX by simply

speaking out and bringing to the attention of school officials violations of the law without being punished?" she said.

The lower courts in the case ruled against Jackson, noting that Title IX is silent on the matter. But other federal courts have reached an opposite conclusion in similar cases, ruling that coaches and teachers are better positioned to report discrimination than students.

Jackson has drawn wide interest, with support from a coalition of 180 civil rights groups including the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Federation of Teachers.

Seahawks get inspiration from '89 49ers

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — One day after his worst defeat in six seasons with the Seattle Seahawks, Mike Holmgren linked this year's team to the Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers of 1989.

No, the veteran coach hasn't lost his mind. Holmgren acknowledged there was no facet of last weekend's 38-9 loss to Buffalo where the Seahawks (6-5) played well. Offense, defense and special teams — "We played a horrible game in every area," he said Monday.

Ever resilient, Holmgren tried to bounce back. He told his players about another squad that opened the season with high expectations and found itself in similar circumstances, when he was quarterbacks coach in San Francisco in 1988.

"Actually the expectations were even higher," Holmgren recalled. "The 49ers had just lost 9-3 to Oakland in Week 12 of 1988, dropping to 6-5. They opened 5-2, but lost three of the next four games. They regrouped and won four straight down the stretch, reaching the playoffs at 10-6."

Most know the rest of the story. Jerry Rice had a remarkable playoff run that included three touchdown catches in a playoff win over Minnesota, two more TDs in the NFC Championship against Chicago and an MVP performance in the Super Bowl.

There, Joe Montana's late 10-yard TD pass to Jon Taylor sealed San Francisco's 20-16 victory over Cincinnati.

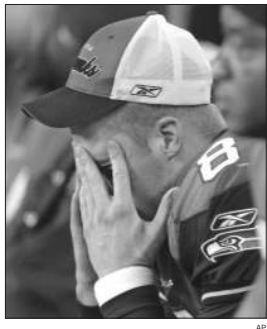
"Being in a situation like that was unusual for the Niners," said Rice, who now plays for Seattle. "We found ourselves 6-5 and we said, 'Hey, the coaches can curse, they can do whatever they want to do, they can work us harder, but it's up to the players to get the job done.'"

They committed to each other. We had five games to go and we did it. We went to the Super Bowl and won it."

Holmgren clearly stirred his team with his remarks.

Seahawks on Monday hardly seemed as if they were handled by an opponent that had been winless on the road. There were smiles at practice, and players bounced from the practice facility to the locker room.

"We've had a really good day today," quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said. "I've got to say I'm very, very impressed with how Coach Holmgren handled it. He gave a talk to the team that was — I would call it inspirational."



Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck rubs his face as he sits on the bench in the final minutes of Seattle's loss to the Bills on Sunday.

"That was probably the best talk I've ever heard him give."

The Seahawks get an extra day to prepare for a Monday night game against Dallas (4-7).

"I love Monday Night Football," Rice said. "It's an opportunity for this team to show the world we haven't played our best football."

Holmgren doesn't plan to give his team an extra day off because Seattle has so many issues to address. The coach even declined to specify which is the most glaring problem when asked if he could change one thing.

"We just have to play better," he said. "We are our own worst enemy. We have prevented ourselves from taking the next step."

He listed five mistakes on special teams, saying one alone is "a big deal." He cited Buffalo's 60-percent conversion rate on third downs, Hasselbeck's inability to move the ball and Seattle's five dropped passes.

"I don't expect us to play like we played yesterday," Holmgren said. "We had a good week of practices. We're coaching the same way. We're emphasizing the things we think we need to emphasize, but it's not carrying over to the field."

The spending on how things go, the Seahawks remain in position to win the NFC West. Despite preseason projections that Seattle was a potential Super Bowl participant, the team goal was to win the division.

"We're running out of time," Holmgren said. "It's down to a five-game season."

cleaning up game new for Chargers

BY BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — It's been a long time since the San Diego Chargers played as big a game as they'll have Sunday, when they host the Denver Broncos.

It got even bigger when the Oakland Raiders upset Denver in the snow on Sunday night, giving the surprising Chargers the AFC West lead.

The Chargers returned from their 34-31 win at Kansas City in time to watch on TV as Oakland's Langston Walker blocked Jason Elam's 43-yard field-goal attempt to preserve a 25-24 win over the Broncos.

So instead of San Diego and Denver being tied at 8-3, the high-scoring Chargers have a one-game lead as they jockey for a rare playoff appearance.

The Chargers gave only slight praise to the division rival Raiders.

"Obviously that helps us out," quarterback Drew Brees said Monday. "It makes this game this week even bigger. Thanks to them for that, but obviously we have our work cut out for us this week."

Brees said he wasn't exactly cheering for Oakland.

"Nah, I mean, it's hard to root for the Raiders. You see the thing get blocked and you just kind of realize where that puts us now. I think we all realize the implications of the AFC West and playoffs and that sort of thing."

Since losing 23-13 at Denver on Sept. 26, San Diego has won seven of eight games, including five straight.

Brees has been the biggest reason for the turnaround from last season's 12-loss fliasco, throwing 21 touchdown passes and just three interceptions, compared to 15 interceptions and 11 TDs a year earlier. Brees threw for a ca-

reer-high 378 yards on Sunday and had two TD passes to tight end Antonio Gates.

Gates, a former basketball star at Kent State, has caught 11 TD passes, one short of the NFL record for tight ends, which is shared by four players, including Mike Ditka.

The Chargers haven't been to the playoffs since 1995, the year after their only Super Bowl appearance. They finished 9-7 to earn a wild-card berth, then were embarrassed at home by the Indianapolis Colts.

Their best record since then has been 8-8, accomplished three times. One of those years was 1999, when they finished one win short of the division title.

Otherwise, the Chargers' eight-year playoff drought has been littered with records such as the 1-15 debacle in 2000 and last season's NFL-worst 4-12.

In 2002, they were 8-4 after beating Denver at home but were already in a slide that would drop them to 8-8 in coach Marty Schottenheimer's first season.

Brees has no problem talking about the playoffs now, as opposed to two years ago, because he said there's a different attitude in the locker room.

"I know what happened two years ago," he said. "We were sitting here at 8-4 thinking, 'Well, if we just win half of our next four games, we're in the playoffs.' And we lose four straight. I don't think that was the attitude to have."

"As far as playoffs, that for us, in our minds, is the given," Brees said. "But we set out to do it all along. Really, our goals go above and beyond just the playoffs."

The Chargers are certainly in unfamiliar territory.

"It's been a while," Brees said. "I don't know how long it's been since we were making a legitimate playoff run. We feel good about it."

Portis' full share of carries has gotten lost in mix

BY JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — The score is 946 to 945, and Clinton Portis is losing.

The Washington Redskins running back, conspicuous by his absence in another feeble effort by the offense, has fallen one yard behind the Denver Broncos' latest running-back-from-nowhere in the unofficial shake down the teams' blockbuster offseason trade.

Out in the Rockies, Reuben Droughns — who — has come on strong in the tradition of Terrell Davis, Olandis Gary, Mike Anderson and Portis as the Broncos challenge for a playoff berth.

Back east, Portis is getting marginalized in a struggling offense for a team going nowhere.

Portis had just six carries for 17 yards when the Redskins (3-8), the lowest-scoring team in the NFL, lost 16-7 to Pittsburgh on Sunday. He was on the bench for long chunks of time, including the entire 13-play drive that resulted in Washington's only touchdown. Backup Ladell Betts

gained 34 yards on eight carries, including a 26-yard scamper that marked the team's longest run from scrimmage since opening day.

"Certainly we'd love to have Clinton get his full share of carries," coach Joe Gibbs said Monday. "But the last two weeks we've been against very good defenses. Looking back on it: would you like to run the ball more? Yeah. Did we think we could run the ball down the field against Pittsburgh? No. We certainly want a mix in there, but it's my responsibility to get us more runs in there."

This is hardly what the Redskins envisioned when they traded four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey and a second-round draft pick for Portis, who rushed for 1,500 yards his first two NFL seasons.

Portis signed an eight-year, \$50.5 million contract and set out to prove that he was a top back in his own right and not just another fortunate product of a Broncos system that runs well-designed plays for interchangeable backs behind a well-heeled offensive line.

It is difficult to pinpoint where the blame lies. Gibbs relied heavily on Portis through the first half of the season, giving him a workload that was on pace to shatter team records in carries and yards. The Redskins are 3-0 when Portis rushes for 70 yards, 0-8 when he doesn't.

But Gibbs' focus on Portis, and the running game in general, has ebbed surprisingly in the past three weeks. Portis had 17 carries against both Cincinnati and Philadelphia. On the season, he has 244 carries for 945 yards and a 3.9 average, while Droughns has surged to 202 carries for 946 yards and a 4.7 average.

The Redskins have an NFL-low two rushing touchdowns and none in the past seven games. They are on pace to rush for nearly the same number of yards (1,654) as last season's 5-11 team under pass-happy coach Steve Spurrier (1,653).

"Clinton, he's got to run the ball," receiver Rod Gardner said. "He's got to have him touch the ball. He's got to put up 100 yards a game. When we get the ball, everybody knows what we're going to do."

Portis also is a victim of the Redskins' anemic passing game.

With no consistent downfield threat, defenses have stalked the line of scrimmage and plugged the holes immediately.

No back could play well in those conditions. Betts notably failed to get into the end zone Sunday in two tries from the 1-yard line.

"We're struggling in the running game no matter which back is back there," left tackle Chris Samuels said. "Anytime you can't complete passes downfield, they're going to stack the box with safeties and extra players. We can account for everybody up front and block those guys, but there's always going to be one or two extra guys."

Portis caught some flak from the coaching staff early in the season for implying that Gibbs' offense was too predictable, but he said all the right things when asked about his spotty playing time Sunday. He said it was hard standing on the sidelines, but that he was more upset with losing than not playing.

"I'm not in the Denver anymore," Portis said. "I'm in Washington. I have to find a way to be a key player in this system, the same way I was there."

Browns resigns from last-place Browns

Four-year tenure marked by nagging injuries, close losses

BY TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland Browns coach Butch Davis resigned under pressure Tuesday, leaving a last-place team with five games left in a sinking season filled with close losses and costly injuries.

The Browns dropped their fifth straight game on Sunday, 58-48 at Cincinnati. The team went 24-36 and made the playoffs just once in Davis' four seasons as head coach.

Davis left with three years remaining on a contract worth about \$12 million. It was not immediately clear if he agreed to a buyout.

Browns President John Collins was to speak at an afternoon news conference, team spokeswoman Lisa Levine said.

Offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie or defensive coordinator Dave Campo was expected to take over as interim coach for the Browns, who host the Super Bowl championship game on Sunday.

Campo coached the Dallas Cowboys for three seasons before being fired after the 2002 season. Robiskie was Washington's interim coach for three games in 2000.

Pressure had been mounting on Davis for weeks as the Browns' season crumbled with a score of injuries to key players and a handful of agonizing losses. Things got so

difficult for Davis and his family last week that he sent his wife and son to Florida to avoid all the attention.

The Browns, who are 3-8 this year and just 8-19 since the end of the 2002 season, have 13 players on injured reserve, including six starters. They continually came up short in tight games during Davis' tenure, and this season was no different: The team lost three games by a total of 13 points.

In a statement, Davis said "intense pressure and scrutiny" made the move necessary.

"I accept responsibility for the mistakes that we have made," Davis said, "but it was my and my staff's intention to do everything we could to lay the foundation and build a team that could win a Super Bowl. I hope that some of my decisions we have made will be a part of a brighter future for the Browns organization."

"My future is clear for the moment. I have no immediate plans to stay in coaching."

Amid speculation last week that Davis was about to be fired, Collins said the coach would remain in place for the rest of the season — unless he resigned.

Davis, who helped restore the University of Miami's American dream all about weeks as the Browns' season crumbled with a score of injuries to key players and a handful of agonizing losses. Things got so

In January, Browns owner Randy Lerner



Butch Davis restored the University of Miami's winning tradition, but his tenure in Cleveland was marked by hard-luck losses.

er gave the 53-year-old Davis a two-year contract extension through 2007 and the added title of executive vice president, despite the club's 5-11 record in 2003.

Lerner felt pressured to keep Davis, thinking the coach was being courted by several college programs.

Davis took the Browns to the playoffs in 2002, their only postseason appearance since returning to the NFL in 1999. But the team endured more than its share of hard-luck losses; sustained an array of costly injuries; underwent a roster-cleaning salary-cap purge in 2003 and a year-long quarterback controversy last season; and mourned the death of owner Al Lerner.

"My future is clear for the moment. I have no immediate plans to stay in coaching."

Butch Davis

Davis was on Cleveland's sideline when Browns fans rioted by throwing thousands of bottles on the field in 2001 and when linebacker Dwayne Rudd threw his helmet in the 2002 opening, costing the Browns a victory.

On Monday, Davis recounted some of those moments.

"In four years," he said, "I have seen some of the most bizarre things."

When he joined the Browns in 2001, Davis promised to lead Cleveland to the Super Bowl. But after a tenure marked by some poor drafting, he leaves far short of that goal, and the team doesn't seem any closer to a title than when Davis arrived.

Davis had total control of all football decisions with Cleveland. His power inside the organization grew when Dwight Clark, the team's director of football operations, resigned in 2002.

Some felt Davis pushed Clark out the door. After Cleveland's disappointing 2003 season, Lerner hired former Green Bay general manager Ron Wolf to assist Davis in assessing the team's roster and preparing for drafts. But Wolf, who rebuilt the Packers into Super Bowl champions, quit after just a few months.

Davis was expected to hire a general manager this winter to work with Cleveland's new coach.

Jets' Pennington says he's ready to play this week

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Chad Pennington, Jets' starting quarterback, says he's ready to return to the New York Jets this week.

Pennington, who has missed the past three weeks with a strained right torso cuff, is questionable for the game Sunday against Houston. He will share snaps with Quincy Carter during practice this week before determining whether he can play.

"I always said I'm going to come back when I feel I can help my team and not hurt my team," Pennington said Monday. "I feel that way. I feel like I can play well."

Whether coach Herman Edwards agrees can be the deciding factor. Pennington started throwing last Nov. 7 at Buffalo at the end of a scramble.

Before a 13-3 win over Arizona on Sunday, he threw 50 passes with full velocity, ranging from short ones to 40-45 yarders.

There has been no swelling in his shoulder and no setbacks, and Pennington does not know whether sitting out an additional week will be beneficial to what he is able to do.

"Does a week really make a difference?" Pennington said. "That's the question. Functional-wise and my shoulder, and the type of movement that it has to make, I don't think a week makes a difference. Obviously a week makes a difference if you don't get hit, but that's not where we are right now. This is football, and you do play hurt."

Cardinals to start rookie QB Navarre

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals are turning to yet another quarterback, this time rookie John Navarre.

NFL briefs

The seventh-round draft pick from Michigan, who never has taken a snap in an NFL regular-season game, will make his debut Sunday when the Cardinals visit Detroit.

Coch Scott Green announced the move Monday, benching Shaun King after two starts and going with Navarre over Josh McCown, who had the job for the first nine games.

"Isn't that the American dream all about opportunity? If one guy hasn't worked out and another guy hasn't worked out, why shouldn't the other guy get a chance? And I've got a lot of confidence in him. I think he will do fine."

Green said McCown would be the backup, with Cardinals (4-7) scored just 13 points in his two starts.

"Quick look? Yeah," Green said. "Tough business, and you don't have to apologize for it being a tough business."

Browns lose Andra Davis for season

BEREA, Ohio — Linebacker Andra Davis will miss the remainder of the season after tearing a ligament in his left knee against the Bengals.

The Browns will place Davis on the injured reserve list, making him the 13th player on it during a season of costly injuries for Cleveland (3-8), which has lost five straight games.

Davis tore the medial collateral ligament in his left knee in the third quarter when Bengals tight end Tony Stewart rolled up on his leg. The injury is to the same knee that Davis had repaired when he played at Florida.

Smith to carry Vikings' load

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Ontario Smith, not former Pro Bowler Michael Bennett, will be Minnesota's starting running back for now.

"We'll try to define a role for Mike," coach Mike Tice said, "but I think right now we'll try to ride Ontario and see how he progresses down the stretch."

Smith, in his second year out of Oregon, racked up 421 combined yards in the Vikings' first three games before serving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse rules. He had a season-high 20 carries for 72 yards in Sunday's 27-16 win over Jacksonville.

Bennett, a starter in four of the Vikings' previous five games, was in for a handful of plays Sunday and didn't carry the ball. He has gained just 89 yards on 27 carries since returning from a sprained neck Oct. 24.

After an ankle sprain, rookie Mewelde Moore also could be back in uniform this week in Chicago, though he likely would be limited to kick returns.

Henry might not have broken leg

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Travis Henry might not have broken a bone in his right leg, as first feared, according to coach Mike Mularkey. The team is conducting further tests on the running back and should have a more definitive diagnosis when the Bills (5-6) return to practice Wednesday.

Henry, the backup to Willis McGahee, was hurt four plays into the team's opening drive in a 38-9 win at Seattle on Sunday.

Linebacker Isaiah Kacyvensky tackled Henry and rolled up on his leg following a 5-yard reception.

Clutching the back of his leg, Henry lay on the field for several minutes before needing help to limp to the sideline, where he was carried to a locker room.

It was the same leg Henry hurt in Week 11 last season, a hairline break to a bone just above his ankle. Henry did not miss a game because of that injury, and went on to his second consecutive 1,300-yard rushing season.

More tests for Bengals RB Perry

CINCINNATI — Running back Chris Perry will get more medical tests this week for abdominal pain. Perry, the 26th overall pick out of Michigan, has appeared in only two games and carried the ball twice for 1 yard. He also has three catches for 35 yards.

"Chris had a good workout yesterday before the game and felt good," Lewis said Monday. "We're going to do some other scans and tests on him over the next two days just to see if there's anything else that we can find that's hindering him. He still has some discomfort at times."

The Bengals (5-6) were hoping to use Perry as a complement to Rudi Johnson, who topped 1,000 yards for the season on Sunday.

Instead, Perry hasn't been able to make it onto the field.

He strained a hamstring in the final pre-season game and didn't appear in the first three games. He made his debut in Pittsburgh on Oct. 3, catching two passes for 24 yards. A week later in Cleveland, he caught one pass for 9 yards and carried twice for 1 yard.

During practice the next week, Perry aggravated some abdominal muscles during practice. He hasn't played since then.

SPORTS



Celtics paint town green
in Doc Rivers' return
to Orlando, Page 29

Notre Dame fires Willingham

School's first black coach failed to restore glory

BY TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Coach Tyrone Willingham was fired by Notre Dame on Tuesday after three seasons in which he failed to return one of the nation's most storied football programs to prominence.

Willingham went 21-15, including 6-5 this season. The Fighting Irish lost 41-10 to No. 1 Southern California on Saturday.

It was not immediately clear whether Willingham would coach the team at the Insight Bowl on Dec. 28. Notre Dame accepted the invitation to the game on Sunday.

Athletic director Kevin White scheduled a news conference for later Tuesday.

Willingham's firing comes after a season in which the Irish pulled off upset victories over Michigan and Tennessee but also were beaten badly by USC and Purdue. Student groups were planning a protest on campus Tuesday evening to call for Willingham's firing; he faced criticism from fans much of the season.

Notre Dame's loss to USC on Saturday marked the fifth time the Irish lost by 31 points or more under Willingham — including three against the rival Trojans. By comparison, former coach Bob Davie's team had just one such loss; Lou Holtz and Dan Devine had none.

Notre Dame hired Willingham, the first black head coach in any sport for the Irish, from Stanford to replace George O'Leary. The former Georgia Tech coach resigned five days after taking the job because he lied about his academic and athletic achievements on his resume.

With Tony Samuel fired by New Mexico State and Fitz Hill resigning from San Jose State last week, there are now only two black head coaches in Division I-A: Karl Dorrell at UCLA and Sylvester Croom at Mississippi State.

In his first season, Willingham had many fans recalling Notre Dame's glory days, taking over a losing squad and turning things around immediately. The Irish won eight

straight games to start the season before finishing 10-3 and going to the Gator Bowl.

But during his second year, the Irish fell to 5-7, with four of their losses coming by 26 points or more. It was Notre Dame's third losing record in five seasons, the team's worst stretch in 115 years of football.

One coach certain to be mentioned as a possible replacement for Willingham is Utah's Urban Meyer, an Irish assistant from 1996-00.

The Utes are 11-0 and ranked No. 5. Meyer said he hadn't heard about Willingham's departure from Notre Dame until he was asked about it by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Asked if he has had any contact with Notre Dame or if he would be interested in coaching the Fighting Irish, Meyer responded: "I won't comment on it."

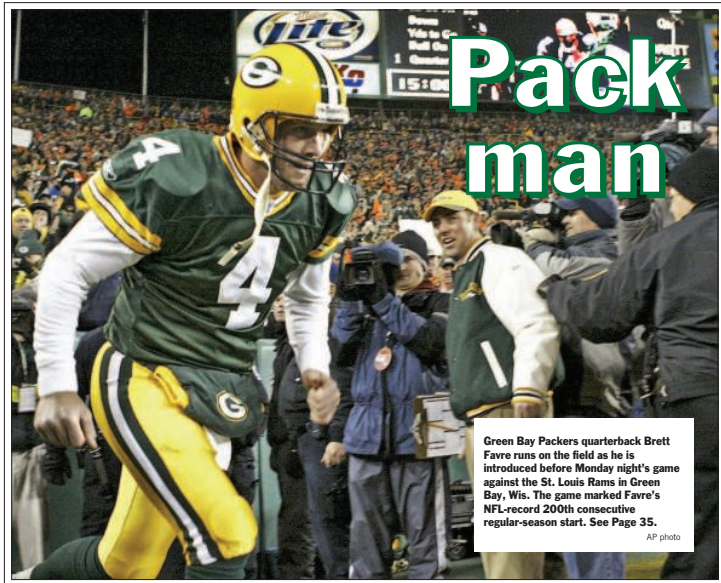
Notre Dame has won eight AP college football national championships, more than any other school, with the last in the



Tyrone Willingham

1988 season under Holtz. Players from the school have won the Heisman Trophy seven times, also the most in college football.

But the Irish haven't won a bowl game since ending the 1993 season ranked No. 2 after beating Texas A&M 24-21 in the Cotton Bowl. Since then, the Irish have lost six straight postseason games.



Packman

Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre runs on the field as he is introduced before Monday night's game against the St. Louis Rams in Green Bay, Wis. The game marked Favre's NFL-record 200th consecutive regular-season start. See Page 35.

AP photo



Browns coach Davis resigns under pressure

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No. 2 Kansas overpowers Nevada

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ACC title tilt a remix of Big East's biggest hits Page 31



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